Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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POLL RESULTS

Did you max out your credit card(s) this past holiday season?

Yes-**21**

No-**40**

Nearly-**8**

Sunday January 13, 2008

INSIDE

GOP Campaign

Republican presidential contenders campaigned Saturday before Michigan's potentially make-or-break primary.

NATION...Page 14

Taiwan Victory

Taiwan's opposition Nationalist Party won a landslide victory in legislative elections Saturday.

ASIA...Page 15

GM Style

Equal parts automotive exhibition, fashion show and concert, GM Style was unlike most runway events.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 18

Guam has thus once again been thrust into the front lines of the US security posture. Missions from the island are evolving into four: Deterrence, warfighting, supporting anti-terrorist and anti-piracy operations, and humanitarian assistance.

Guam, all over again

Island is the pivot of a sweeping realignment of US forces in the Pacific

B-52s deployed from Barksdale AFB, La., take off from Andersen in support of the 7th Air Expeditionary Wing's mission. DOD PHOTO

By RICHARD HALLORAN
FOR THE AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION

Editor's Note: Reprinted with permission from Air Force Magazine. *Originally published by the Air Force Association.*

Two days after Christmas 1972, the sky over Guam was black with B-52s returning from a massive raid on North Vietnam. One by one from the west came 78 of them, a minute or so apart, landing lights blazing, engines whining as they let down over the lagoon and then turned left to touch down at Andersen Air Force Base, from which they had launched 18 hours earlier.

Before, the BUFFs had been bombing South Vietnam in milk runs, usually in cells of three that laid down carpets of devastation 3,000 feet wide and 9,000 feet long. They rarely ran into opposition and their main enemy was boredom.

When the B-52s shifted to targets in North Vietnam for Operation Linebacker II, they used

See GUAM on Page 8

INAUGURAL MASS JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Candles are lighted while members and family of the 16th Northern Mariana Islands Commonwealth Legislature and the 10th Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council gather inside the Mt. Carmel Cathedral in Chalan Kanoa for the Inaugural Mass Saturday afternoon.

Contractors hired to fix power plant

Companies from the United States, Japan, Singapore, and Australia have been hired and are now proceeding to make significant improvements to Saipan's primary power plant.

"The work is critical to protect the capital generation in-

See CONTRACTORS on Page 4

OIA chief attends today's inauguration

By AGNES E. DONATO
REPORTER

Pula

The director of the U.S. Office of Insular Affairs will attend the inauguration of the 16th Legislature today.

Nikolao Pula, who may soon be the next deputy assistant secretary for insular af-

See OIA on Page 4

'Leadership change good for Commonwealth' **PAGE 4**

BOE to welcome three new members. **PAGE 6**

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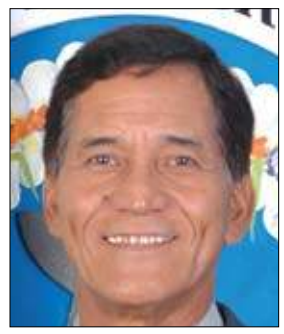
The 16th Commonwealth Legislature

The following are the members of the 16th Legislature, who will be sworn in today during an inaugural session at the House of Representatives and Senate chambers. Contact information, office addresses, and other pertinent data will be published at a future date.

SENATE

PATERNO SONGAO HOCOG
Incumbent - Republican
First Senatorial District - Rota
Date of Birth: June 6, 1956
Spouse: Elizabeth S. Mendiola
Children: Anginette Mendiola-Bamba,
Andre Mendiola, Carrie Lynn Hocog,
Paterno Jose Hocog, Patty Beth Hocog, and
Paterno Hocog, Jr.

PAUL ATALIG MANGLONA
Incumbent - Independent
First Senatorial District - Rota
Date of Birth: January 25, 1958
Spouse: Lydia Manibusan Manglona
Children: Deanna, Paul Jr., Denn, and Pauline



FELIX TAISACAN MENDIOLA
Incumbent - Covenant
First Senatorial District - Rota
Date of Birth: March 17, 1948
Spouse: Winifreda DLG. Mendiola
Children: Marvin, Kenneth, Amy, Kelvin,
Trent, West, Daniel, Jarret, and Katherine

JUDE UNTALAN HOFSCHNEIDER
Incumbent - Republican
Second Senatorial District - Tinian & Aguiguan
Date of Birth: July 11, 1970
Spouse: Lizabeth B. Hofschneider
Children: Nathaniel, Kimberly, Ashley, and Alexis

JOSEPH MASGA MENDIOLA
Incumbent - Covenant
Second Senatorial District - Tinian & Aguiguan
Date of Birth: August 3, 1961
Spouse: Carleen Palacios Mendiola
Children: Nikita, Nicole, Noreen, Joseph Jr., and David Joseph

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[1] $5,000 minimum opening deposit and balance required for new Bankohana Bonus Rate Savings Plus accounts opened by February 17, 2008. Funds to open account may not be from an existing Bank of Hawaii account. Some restrictions apply. You will receive a $20 DFS Galleria Gift Card upon account opening. Limit one $20 DFS Galleria Gift Card per account regardless of the number of accountholders. Limit one per customer. Not available for existing accounts. Good while supplies last. [2] Current Annual Percentage Yields accurate as of 1/2/08 and subject to change without notice. Interest rates and APYs may change after the account is opened. Fees may reduce earnings. Some restrictions apply.
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HENRY HOFSCHNEIDER SAN NICOLAS
Incumbent - Covenant
Second Senatorial District - Tinian & Aguiguan
Date of Birth: March 25, 1968
Spouse: Ana Marie Cruz San Nicolas
Children: Marissa Dolores, Myrese, Henry Jr.,
Guillermina Rose, and Miyako

LUIS PALACIOS CRISOSTIMO, JR.
Incumbent - Democrat
Third Senatorial District - Saipan & Northern Islands
Date of Birth: November 26, 1960
Spouse: Maria Sablan Crisostimo
Children: Monica, Luis Jr., and Dwight
Grandchild: Dwight II

MARIA FRICA TUDELA PANGELINAN
Incumbent - Democrat
Third Senatorial District - Saipan & Northern Islands
Date of Birth: December 5, 1948
Spouse: Joseph Ito Pangelinan
Children: Frank, Lynn, David, Geri, and Joey

PETE PANGELINAN REYES
Incumbent - Republican
Third Senatorial District - Saipan & Northern Islands
Date of Birth: November 4, 1946
Spouse: Glenna Sakisat-Palacios Reyes
Children: Yvonne & Anthony (Tony Jr., Hope, Peyton, Sommer),
Dwayne & Nicolett (Alex, Yenalea, DJ, Nikaya),
Yvette & Jose (Savahna Jade),
Peter (Irie), Jake Victor, and Isa Belle

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DAVID MUNDO APATANG
Independent
Election District: 1 (Saipan)
Spouse: Antonia Mafnas Apatang
Children: Elaine & Rick, Velma & Scott,
Kimberly & Ben, Victoria & John,
Deynarose & Tim, and David John & Christina

Continued on Next Page

DIEGO TENORIO BENAVENTE
Republican
Election District: 1 (Saipan)
Date of Birth: April 21, 1959
Spouse: Victoria Iriarte Benavente
Children: Jacob (Jerry and Jacob), Dianna, James, and Dolores

JOSEPH PINAULA DELEON GUERRERO
Incumbent - Republican
Election District: 1 (Saipan)
Date of Birth: August 5, 1963
Spouse: Mercedes Quitugua Deleon Guerrero
Children: Joseph Jr., Jeffrey, Lance, and Anthony

JOSEPH CASTRO REYES
Republican
Election District: 1 (Saipan)
Date of Birth: July 18, 1953
Spouse: Mary Ann S. Milne
Children: Leolani, Kolin, Marvin Reyes,
Robert, Esther, Ernest, and Ronald Milne

RALPH ANTHONY DELEON GUERRERO TORRES
Republican
Election District: 1 (Saipan)
Spouse: Diann Tudela Torres
Child: Ralph Anthony Tudela Torres, Jr.
Parents: Vicente V. Torres & Primitiva DLG. Torres

CHRISTINA MARIE ELISE SABLAN
Independent
Election District: 1 (Saipan)
Date of Birth: May 18, 1981
Spouse: Glen Hunter

OSCAR MANGLONA BABAUTA
Incumbent - Covenant
Election District: 2 (Saipan)
Date of Birth: December 29, 1954
Spouse: Lolita
Children: Tricia, Jesse, Oscar Jr., and Janella

RAYMOND DEMAPAN PALACIOS
Covenant
Election District: 2 (Saipan)
Date of Birth: September 9, 1963
Spouse: Elizabeth A. Leon Guerrero
Children: David W. Palacios, Hazel Lyn W. Palacios, and Mercy Lyn W. Palacios
Father: Francisco M. Palacios

FRANCISCO SANTOS DELA CRUZ
Incumbent - Covenant
Election District: 3 (Saipan & Northern Islands)
Date of Birth: March 29, 1962
Spouse: Lisa Manglona Dela Cruz
Children: Divana (Raymana Owen), Dana,
Damien and Deveney
Parents: †Tomas Castro Dela Druz &
†Remedio Santos DelaCruz

HEINZ SABLAN HOFSCHNEIDER
Republican
Election District: 3 (Saipan & Northern Islands)

ARNOLD INDALECIO PALACIOS
Incumbent - Republican
Election District: 3 (Saipan)
Date of Birth: August 22, 1955
Spouse: Wella Sablan Palacios
Children: Arnold Gerard, Nicole, Tiana, and Eric

Continued on Page 5

PTI Your connection to the world

VEHICLE AUCTION

Place: PTI Parking Lot Susupe
When: January 18, 2008 [Friday]
Time: 5:00 p.m.

For more info pls. contact: Allen Palacios at 682-2404

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'Leadership change good for Commonwealth'

By AGNES E. DONATO
REPORTER

Washington Rep. Pete A. Tenorio says the change of leadership at the Legislature should be good for the Commonwealth.

"I am glad there is a change. Everybody wants to see new faces. And with GOP controlling the Legislature, there will be more balance of power," Tenorio said after the inaugural mass for the 16th Legislature on Saturday.

The new set of lawmaker, elected on Nov. 3, 2007, will be sworn into office at 10am today. The inauguration ceremony will take place at the respective chambers at the Legislature on Capital Hill.

The NMI Republican Party, which was defeated in the 2005 election, is poised to regain control of the Legislature. Rep. Arnold I. Palacios is expected to be elected House speaker, and Sen. Pete P. Reyes president of the Senate.

Tenorio, a Republican, said he looks forward to working with the new Legislature. He has been having a rocky relationship with the governor, who belongs to the Covenant Party.

Asked to rate the performance of the 15th Legislature, Tenorio said, "They had a lot of good ideas, but not much has been done."

He was quick to add that the lawmakers could not be entirely faulted, given the Commonwealth's limited resources. "It is unfortunate that our revenue continues to decrease. No matter who the legislators are, if there is no money, it is not easy. Nobody is a miracle worker," he said.

He hopes that funding would be less of a problem for the 16th Legislature.

Power fluctuates at Saipan airport

Low voltage coming from the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. caused power to fluctuate at the Saipan International Airport yesterday.

Stanley C. Torres, acting executive director of the Commonwealth Ports Authority, said the power interruption affected the commuter terminal and certain parts of the airport.

"The low voltage affected our generator and caused it to go on and off for a while," Torres said.

The interruptions occurred from 10 am until about noon Sunday. No flights were disrupted because of the power problem.

"Our staff worked hard to address the problem, and CUC was also there to help. Everything is okay now. We are back to normal," Torres said.

CUC is currently under a state of emergency due to its lack of funds to pay for power generation fuel. The declaration will be in effect until Feb. 3, 2008.

The state of emergency declaration allows the governor to assume full control of CUC and suspend all regulatory statute provisions and regulations applicable to CUC, including procurement regulations. The governor will also have the power to reprogram all available funds to address CUC's problems. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

Students invited to join poetry competition

Junior high and high school from around the Commonwealth have been invited to participate in the Fifth Annual Valentine Sengebau Poetry Competition to be held in February.

The annual event, sponsored by the NMI Council for the Humanities, honors the late Valentine Sengebau, a long-time Palauan resident of the Commonwealth and well-known poet.

According to Council executive director Paz C. Younis, schools from Saipan, Tinian and Rota have been asked to select two poets each to compete in a junior division (7th-8th grades) and senior division (9th-12th grades).

Poems addressing themes of culture, identity and change in the islands may be written in a variety of styles including rhymed or free verse, sonnet or ode, up to a maximum length of 250 words. Entries must be received by the Council on or before 4pm on Feb. 22.

Contestants will recite their poems at a final event at the Visitors Center Theater, American Memorial Park, beginning at 6:30pm on Feb. 28. Poets will be judged on two criteria: content and recital quality.

First place finishers in both divisions will have their names inscribed on perpetual trophies that will be kept by the winning schools until next year's competition.

The top three finishers in each division will also receive cash prizes and certificates. Honorable mentions will receive certificates.

Last year's winners included Alicia Yen of Marianas Baptist in the Junior Division and Mt. Carmel's Ryan Ortizo who took the top spot in the Senior Division.

Interested schools are invited to contact the Humanities Council at 235-4785 for additional information regarding this event. ***(PR)***

Municipal Council to be sworn in today

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
Rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Members of the Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council will be sworn in this morning at the Multi-Purpose Center.

The council will include two new members: Ramon B. Camacho and Felipe Q. Atalig; incumbent Antonia M. Tudela will conclude the three-person team.

Atalig

Tudela

Before serving in the Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council, Tudela worked as a loan officer at the Bank of Guam in Rota and was promoted to branch manager. Tudela has been serving in Municipal Council since January 2006. During that time, she was elected president of the Association of Mariana Islands Mayors, Vice Mayors and Elected Municipal Council Members.

Tudela said she has copious ideas in mind. "We want to work with the Department of Public Health, clean inside the villages, and continue assisting with the mayors of the CNMI," said Tudela.

Tudela added she plans to visit the mayors of Guam to try and find way to promote local farming in the CNMI.

"Even though we don't have any power, we will do the best we can to deliver," said Tudela.

Ramon B. Camacho retired from police duty in December 2002. As much as he loved the job, he said, he wanted to go back to his roots – farming. Camacho grew up at a farm doing odd farming jobs and never lost the passion for it.

Camacho was elected among the local farmers to chair for the CNMI chapter of the Farming Service Agency. He also took part in helping reduce the lease fee for commercial farm plots.

Camacho was appointed chairman for the Board of Parole and is currently serving as an advisory counsel for the Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research, Extension and Education Service.

Camacho said that one goal of his is to work closely with the delegation to establish a form of village inspection and a neighborhood watch program.

"I want to work hand-in-hand with the administration, the mayor and the Legislature. Not just for individuals but for the entire community," said Camacho.

Camacho added that he wants to go further with the CNMI beautification project.

He explained that there is often a beach cleanup, "but what about the villages? People tend to neglect to clean and beautify inside the villages. With that, I want to go further than beach clean-ups" said Camacho.

The Municipal Council will also welcome another new member, Casa De Felipe owner Felipe Q. Atalig. Atalig holds a degree in political science and has been a long-time businessman in the CNMI. He is a member of the first Constitutional Convention, and was aconsultant and public relation officer to former Senate President Joseph S. Inos.

He also served as public information officer to the Department of Public Works.

CONTRACTORS

From Page 1

vestment in Saipan and to provide the most immediate and improved reliability in electrical supplies," said Anthony C. Guerrero, executive director of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. "We've now issued most of the notices to mobilize these firms which are supplying specialized engine parts, determining the root causes and solutions of maintenance issues, finding the most reputable vendors, and improving efficiency at the plant."

The utility agency used federal funds to jumpstart nearly all plant repairs and contracts after the U.S. Department of the Interior approved a total reprogramming of $6.5 million from capital improvement projects. The CUC matches this amount through a combination of ongoing maintenance programs and a new longer-term contract with a Guam firm for power plant rehabilitation.

"Most generator parts are manufactured for each individual unit and are based on specific measurements, hours the unit has run, and other conditions. The lead time for rehabilitation can be daunting, and the good news is that we're now to the point where actual repairs are taking place," Guerrero explained.

Summary of Major Contracts, Parts Procurement

■ **DCM Guam $5 million** *(rounded)*

A complete rehabilitation of the Saipan power plants that includes work with all eight generators; long term maintenance-management, employee training and skills-development, parts and equipment.

■ **Man Diesel $2.15 million** *(rounded)*

The original designer of the diesel generators from Germany; now Man Diesel Singapore is hired for:

-Replacement/installation of Crank Shaft / Unit No. 1 (7 megawatts)

-Turbo Charger / Overhauls for Units No. 5, 6, 7, 8 (13 megawatts, each)

-Fuel Injection Systems for Units No. 5, 6, 7, 8 (13 megawatts, each)

-Overhaul / Spare parts for future O&M at 12,000 and 36,000 running-hours for Unit No. 2 (7 MW); Unit No. 7, Unit No. 8 (13 MW)

■ **Mitsubishi Japan $1.04 million** *(rounded)*

The firm that originally built or manufactured the diesel units is hired for:

-Foundation and Frame Work for Units No. 7 and No. 8 (13 megawatt generators)

-Overhaul / Spare parts for future O&M at 12,000 hours/ 36,000 hours for Units No. 7 and No. 8

■ **CBM Technologies $875,700** *(rounded)*

An Australian firm hired to supply and install radiators for two 13-megawatt generators (Units No. 5 and No. 6)

■ **SAI Traders, Guam $431,3000** *(rounded)*

Hired for the supply and installation of oil purifiers (lube-oil separator) for three seven megawatt units, No. 1, No. 2, No 3, also addressing critical environmental needs-assessment from the U.S. EPA.

■ **Various-Smaller Purchases $194,000** *(rounded)*

The Saipan power plant has eight diesel generators, four of which are rated at 13 megawatts; the remaining four are rated at seven megawatts. On any given day, four of the eight are operational.

The federal and local investments will result in at least seven of the eight units being fully operational, rehabilitated, and include a supply of spare parts for future overhauls.

"We're really thinking ahead to ensure that once repairs or overhauls are achieved, we're ready for the next step and ongoing maintenance," Guerrero emphasized.

Rehabilitation began in early December when Man Diesel (formerly Man B&W Germany) was deployed from Singapore to Saipan and began work on the first unit in line, a 7-megawatt generator. If no significant problems are detected or additional parts required, Man Diesel expects having Unit No. 1 running by February.

Within days, another major firm will arrive on Saipan to manage maintenance on all eight engines.

DCM of Guam was awarded a $5 million contract for major rehabilitation at the plant over the next nine months. Mitsubishi of Japan will also supply major spare parts for the generators, as will an Australian firm, CBM Technologies and Guam-based SAI Traders. ***(CUC)***

OIA

From Page 1

fairs, will be on Saipan for two days to meet with local government officials.

"I am honored to be there in time coinciding with the Legislature's inauguration. I look forward to attending the opening ceremony and also to meet with legislative members," Pula said in an e-mail to the *Saipan Tribune*.

He said he will also meet with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and other CNMI officials regarding capital improvement grants and other issues.

"This is a short trip for now because our team is heading on to Pohnpei to meet with President Mori and the four governors of the FSM states on Compact issues. I plan to return to the CNMI soon to meet with several other folks on a variety of issues after this trip," Pula said.

David Cohen, who leaves his post at the end of this month, said he had recommended Pula to succeed him as the lead official for Washington's relationships with U.S. possessions and freely associated states.

Like Cohen, Pula is from American Samoa.

According to the OIA website, Pula is the first Pacific islander of Samoan ancestry ever to serve in his current post. As OIA director, Pula advises the deputy assistant secretary and the Secretary on operational and administrative matters involving federal policy in the insular areas.

OIA is the U.S. government's liaison organization with American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Marianas, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, as well as the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia and Palau. OIA also exercises certain residual responsibilities in two of the nine smaller U.S. insular areas, Palmyra and Wake Atolls.

Pula served as OIA Director of Policy from February 2000 to January 2001 prior to assuming the directorship. During his tenure with OIA, he also served as a policy desk officer from August 1993 to July 2000 and acting director from January 2001 to June 2002. Pula joined the Department of the Interior in 1993.

Before coming to the Department of the Interior, Pula worked for 11 years on Capitol Hill for Sen. Daniel K. Inouye (D-Hawaii), Rep. Fofo I.F. Sunia (D-Am. Samoa), the House Committee on Public Works and Transportation, and the Senate Sergeant-at-Arms.

RAMON ANGAILEN TEBUTEB
Incumbent - Republican
Election District: 3
(Saipan & Northern Islands)
Date of Birth: August 25, 1958
Spouse: Messelina "Missy" Deleon Guerrero Aldan
Children: Redie Paula Aldan, Joseph A. Mizutani,
Grina Lee A. Mizutani, Frankie A. Mizutani,
Reyzor A. Tebuteb, Reyna Lee A. Tebuteb, and Kimo Weiloolyong A. Tebuteb

EDWARD TUDELA SALAS
Republican
Election District: 5 (Saipan)
Date of Birth: January 20, 1954
Spouse: Nona Legaspi Salas
Child: Edward Angelo L. Salas

EDWIN PALACIOS ALDAN
Incumbent - Covenant
Election District: 6 (Tinian)
Date of Birth: March 29, 1970
Spouse: Rosita King Aldan
Child: Anfernee

STANLEY TUDELA MCGINNIS TORRES
(Incumbent - Independent Republican)
Election District: 3
(Saipan & Northern Islands)
Date of Birth: September 30, 1941
Spouse: Arlene Blas Cabrera Tudela
Children: Stanley C. Torres/Juanny (Nathan);
Regina C. Torres-Scarpucci/Dennis (Brandon, Sean, Hanna, E.J.);
Charles C. Torres / Chao-Wang (Kelani);
Kenneth Emery C. Torres / May Rose (Taylor Ann, Emmerie, Makenzie Leialoha);
Anthony C. Torres / Nicole (Isaiah); and
Jeric Nolan D.C. Torres

ROSEMOND BLANCO SANTOS
Republican
Election District: 5 (Saipan)
Parents: †Jose Terlaje Santos & Maria Luisa Blanco Santos

VICTOR BORJA HOCOG
Independent
Election District: 7 (Rota)
Date of Birth: September 11, 1953
Spouse: Villia M. Hocog
Children: Viola, Victor Val, Verilynn, and Valeen

RAY NARAJA YUMUL
Incumbent - Republican
Election District: 3
(Saipan & Northern Islands)
Date of Birth: August 18, 1972
Spouse: Maria Theresa "Marites" Acosta-Yumul
Children: Dominic Jude "DJAY" Acosta Yumul and
Daniel Ethan Acosta Yumul

JOSEPH JAMES NORITA CAMACHO
Republican
Election District: 4 (Saipan)
Spouse: Ellsbeth Viola Alepuyo
Child: Ulen Joseph Vicente Alepuyo Camacho

JUSTO SONGAO QUITUGUA
Incumbent - Democrat
Election District: 4 (Saipan)
Date of Birth: February 19, 1950
Spouse: Jackie A. Quitugua
Children: John Gabriel, Joylyne, Justise,
Justo, and Jackie

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP 08-008

Real Property Appraisal

Northern Marianas College is soliciting sealed proposals for appraisal of Real Property belonging to the NMC.

Specifications and Scope of Work may be picked up at the NMC Procurement Office, bldg. N Room 4, Monday to Friday between the hours of 8: 30-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:30 p.m. For Off-island Proposers, you may request a copy via fax or e-mail.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals for any reason and waive any defect in said proposals, or cancel in part or its entirety this RFP, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College.

All costs incurred by the proposer to prepare a response this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the proposer.

Proposals deadline are due January 25, 2008 on at 10:00 a.m. Saipan time at the Northern Marianas College, Procurement Office, P.O. Box 501250, Saipan, MP 96950.

All submittals shall become the property of NMC and shall not be returned.

Duane R.T. Sablan
Procurement & Property Management Office

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BOE to welcome three new members

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
Rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Members of the CNMI State Board of Education will be inducted this morning at the Multi-Purpose Center where outgoing chair Roman Benavente will pass on the gavel to the next chair.

The board will welcome to its ranks two new Saipan members: Marylou S. Ada and Galvin S. Deleon Guerrero. The board will also welcome one new Rota member, Denise Tanya R. King.

GALVIN S. DELEON GUERRERO

Mobile: (670) 285-4617
E-mail: galvin@itecnmi.com

■ Educator for 11 years; currently principal at Mount Carmel School.

■ Served as special assistant for special projects during Babauta administration, where he implemented Babauta's 2003-2004 Education Initiative and researched and advised Babauta on education issues.

■ Bachelor of arts degree at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Washington (cum laude)

■ Certificate of completion at the Northern Marianas Bar Association and is now a candidate for a master's degree in school administration at the University of San Francisco, California.

Guerrero

■ Deleon Guerrero has done an array of community involvement from a delegate representing Oceania at the World Youth Forum in Paris, France to producing, coaching, and writing for the CNMI Mock Trial League. Currently, he is the chair of the fiscal and legislative committee for the Northern Marinas College Board of Regents.

■ He has been a recipient of prestigious awards and has been included in the "Who's Who among students in schools and colleges."

■ Deleon Guerrero said he would work with the other board members and get to know them better for a harmonious working relationship. He said he also plans to start a dialogue with teachers and parents as soon as he boards the team and proceed from there.

■ Deleon Guerrero's goals are:

1. To advocate more aggressively for resources and funding from elected officials.

2. To do more with less with limited resources.

3. To engage teachers, parents, students, and the entire community more in setting a vision for our education system.

MARYLOU S. ADA

■ Consultant to Emmanuel College. Ada was successful in obtaining a license from the State Board of Higher Education to open a Licensed Vocational School of Nursing. She was also responsible in preparing and defending the application before the State Board of Higher Education. Because of her obvious hard work and persistence, Emmanuel College was finally granted the license in April 2007.

Ada

■ Was a loan officer for the Commonwealth Development Authority where she advanced to a managerial position. She also served as a consultant to Sen. Maria Tudela and was a legislative assistant to three senators.

■ Bachelor of Science degree in political science at Oregon State University and a doctorate in law at the University of New Mexico.

■ Ada's goals are:

1.) To provide and improve the quality of education for our children that they rightfully deserve;

2.) To improve more parental involvement in our education system, it is everybody's business not just the BOE, principals, teachers but everyone.

3.) To increase more vocational education and opportunities for our children so that we prepare them from school to work in conjunction with the private sector.

Ada said the goals listed are very simple, "but this is just a needle in a haystack."

DENISE TANYA R. KING

Contact: (670) 287-8254

King has vast accreditation experiences in evaluating schools in the Western Pacific and was accreditation coordinator for Rota High School when they were awarded a six-year term.

King's experience with the CNMI Public School System and the Western Association of School and Colleges accreditation process, she said, has enabled her to understand what the critical needs are of the students and the elements of school wide improvement and systematic change.

She has also received numerous grant awards to help improve school infrastructure.

King expressed that there is a need to ensure that the Board of Education policies reflect the best interest the CNMI students and that each school is enforcing those policies.

"It is imperative that our decisions are data based and that programs are based on empirically based research. We must revisit the feasibility of vocational tracks for all islands," said King.

Throughout the past 17 years, King has collected and studied data on student achievement through working with students and engaging in dialogues with parents, educators and community officials.

She added that she is confident that the composition of the Board of Education brings a wealth of expertise that is both diverse and complimentary. "Our mutual commitment and passion to ensuring our children receive the "BEST" will be our paramount concern."

"It is my goal that when students graduate that they have the freedom of choice, that each graduate has the necessary skills and competencies to pursue a career in the government, military, or private sector or attend a college or university," said King.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

NOTICE OF AUCTION
IN THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

The NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, hereinafter referred to as NMHC, as auctioneer and seller hereby gives notice that all of the rights, title, and interests of the following described real properties situated in Garapan, Saipan, CNMI will be sold at an auction:

LOT NO. 01:

Lot No. 003 D 10 (formerly Block 1 Lot 10), containing an area of 1.022 Square meters, more or less, as more particularly described in Official Cadastral Plat No. 003 D 00 registered at Mariana Islands District Registrar's Office as Document No. 689 on the 19th day of February, 1971, the original of which was registered with the Land Registry on the 1st day of March, 1971, as Document No. 689, and containing an area of 1,022 square meters.

Minimum Bid. The minimum bid for the property listed in this notice shall be $100,000.

LOT NO. 02

Lot No. 003 D 16 (Formerly Block 1 Lot 16), as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat Number 003 D 00 dated February 19, 1971, the original of which was Registered with the Land Registry on the 1st day of March, 1971, as Document No. 869, and Containing an area of 1,022 square meters, more or less, together with the improvements and Fixtures located thereon and therein and the appurtenances and all the rights, title and interest of, in, and to the land lying in all streets, highways and rights of ways abutting on or appurtenant to said premises.

Minimum Bid. The minimum bid for the property listed in this notice shall be $72,000.00.

The auction will be open to the general public and will be held at NMHC's Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m., on Tuesday, January 15, 2008**, subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

1. Reserve. The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
2. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, auctioneer and seller shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a.) To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b.) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c.) To reject any and all bids.
3. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514, Phone: 234-6866, Fax: 234-9021; or to Vicente T. Salas, Esq., P.O. Box 501309, Saipan, MP 96950-1309, Phone: 234-7455, Fax: 234-7256.
4. Deposit; Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.
5. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and NMHC reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
6. **Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact NMHC for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.**

Dated this 11th day of December, 2007.

/s/
JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO, Corporate Director
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation

'16th Legislature should address outrageous fuel charges of CUC'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep.-elect Joseph James Norita Camacho said the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s "outrageous fuel charges" is one of the top issues the incoming 16th Legislature needs to address.

"I campaigned hard on many issues. They are all equally important obviously. Top of the list is the CUC and the CUC rates. We need to focus that," said Camacho in an interview with *Saipan Tribune*.

Camacho said the Legislature should find a way to fix the CUC matter.

"People can't even pay their monthly bills and have problems feeding their family, with just daily living. Businesses are closing down because they can't pay for their bills to keep their lights on, to keep the business going," he said.

Camacho said investors are reluctant to come to the CNMI because of the outrageous fuel charges.

"CUC is one of the important matters that we need to address among many," said Camacho, who is also a lawyer.

He stated he is going to file several legislations that will address the CUC fuel problem.

"We are in the process now of communicating and talking with the other members so we can be on the same page on the CUC matter," he said.

Asked whether he is going to file a bill that will reduce the fuel rates, the new lawmaker only stated "it will address the CUC."

The 16th Legislature will be sworn into office today. Camacho is expected to be the floor leader.

"I am very excited. We campaigned hard in 2007 to get into office and we look forward to drafting some good legislations that hopefully will change peoples' lives for the positive," he said.

Four men arrested, one stabbed during CK fight

Four persons were arrested after two groups of men clashed early Thursday morning at a parking lot of a store in Chalan Kanoa that resulted in one person being stabbed and injured.

Arrested were Sos K. Ludwig, 21; Sipson K. Ludwig, 18; and Onochew Iata, 24.

Sos Ludwig was charged with assault and battery, and disturbing the peace, while Sipson Ludwig was charged with assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace. Iata was charged only with disturbing the peace.

Michael Torres Castro, 20, was separately charged with assault with a dangerous weapon, criminal mischief, and disturbing the peace.

Michael Castro's brother, Patrick Castro, suffered a stab wound on his back and was taken in an ambulance to the Commonwealth Health Center.

All four defendants were brought to the Superior Court on Friday afternoon for a bail hearing.

Police said the fight happened at the parking lot of Heng Da Store between 12:15am and 1:28am.

Police said investigation showed that the first three defendants arrived at the parking lot of Heng Da Store to buy cigarettes on board a taxicab operated by Rose Taman Hossain.

At the parking lot, the three met the Castro brothers and a certain Denmar.

Sos Ludwig allegedly challenged Michael Castro to a fight. A fight then broke out between the two groups during which Sipson Ludwig allegedly stabbed Patrick Castro with a knife in the back.

When a police officer responded, he saw Castro and two other men, all without shirts, throwing rocks at Hossain's taxicab.

All individuals involved in the fight started running away. The officers managed to arrest Castro and the three others. Patrick Castro was transported to the hospital.

Hossain said the damage to her taxicab was between $1,550 to $1,900. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Pete A mum on delegate bid plans

By AGNES E. DONATO
REPORTER

Washington Rep. Pete A. Tenorio is still declining to reveal whether or not he will run for congressional delegate once the seat has been granted to the Commonwealth.

"There is nothing to announce yet. It is not in my mind right now," Tenorio said in an interview Saturday.

Legislation granting the CNMI a delegate in the U.S. House of Representatives is included in the bill that would federalize local immigration. The House-approved bill is expected to pass the Senate in early February 2008.

"It is likely that the bill will pass. But until it happens, I cannot make a final decision. The race, of course, is open to whoever wants to run," said Tenorio, who has actively lobbied Congress to approve the delegate bill.

The bill, as passed by the House of Representatives, proposes a November 2008 election for the first CNMI delegate. This coincides with the coming federal general election.

Under the delegate bill, Northern Marianas will have a representative with limited voting powers to the U.S. House of Representatives. Currently, all U.S. possessions except the CNMI have a delegate in the House.

The CNMI delegate will assume office on the third day of January after the election.

To be eligible, a candidate must be at least 25 years old, a U.S. citizen and CNMI resident for at least seven years before the election, and a qualified CNMI voter on the date of the election. A candidate for CNMI delegate must not be running for any other office.

The CNMI delegate will receive the same compensation, allowances, and benefits as a member of the House of Representatives.

Similar to House members and other delegates, the CNMI delegate will be elected to Congress every two years. He may serve on committees, as well as vote on legislation at the committee level. But floor voting will not be permitted.

US govt indicts man in alleged marriage scam

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. government has indicted a Bangladeshi who allegedly engaged in a fake marriage to obtain an Immediate Relative status.

Mohamad Ruhul Amin was charged on Friday in federal court with conspiracy to commit offense or to defraud the United States government, false statement in application for a passport, and subornation of perjury.

Amin married Rose Mayo Reyes, a U.S. citizen, on May 9, 2007.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric S. O'Malley stated in the indictment that the purpose of the marriage was to enable Amin to obtain IR status under the CNMI immigration laws.

In exchange for the marriage, the defendant allegedly provided Reyes with money and gifts worth several hundred dollars.

O'Malley said the two never lived and never intended to live together as husband and wife.

On Aug. 23, 2007, Amin asked Reyes to submit an application for her U.S. passport that would identify him as Reyes' spouse.

On that day, Reyes submitted a Form DS-11 indicating that she was married to Amin, replacing her family name with his, to the United States Passport Office in Susupe, Saipan.

O'Malley said when submitting the Form DS-11, Reyes signed and swore under penalty of perjury that the statements were true and correct.

In May 2005, the CNMI government filed a deportation case against Amin after his non-alien IR entry permit was revoked after the court found that the U.S. citizen woman he married committed bigamy.

According to an Immigration investigator, Amin was married to Carmelita Guiao De Dios on July 29, 2002.

In July 2004, the Superior Court convicted De Dios of bigamy for unlawfully marrying Amin while she is still legally married, the investigator said.

2 men nabbed for alleged 'ice' trafficking on Tinian

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Authorities arrested on Tinian Thursday night two men who were allegedly involved in trafficking crystal methamphetamine or "ice."

The defendants—Tian Yuan Huang also known as Ma, and one only known as Toni, both Chinese—were taken to the Superior Court on Saipan Friday afternoon for a bail hearing.

Huang and Toni were charged with trafficking of a controlled substance and possession of a controlled substance.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman imposed a $100,000 cash bail each for the temporary release of the defendants.

Detective Peter R. Camacho stated in his report that last Wednesday and Thursday, members of the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Department of Public Safety's Narcotics Activity Resolution Coalition Task Force were able to purchase "ice" from Huang by using a "cooperating source" and an undercover officer.

Camacho said both "buy-walk operations" took place at Huang's residence at the Turn Key Housing on Tinian.

Camacho's report did not mention the quantity of the "ice" purchased or seized from Huang during the subsequent search at his residence.

With respect to Toni, Police Officer Norman S. Rasiang stated in his report that on Wednesday members of the DEA and NARC Task Force and Tinian Police Department conducted a "buy-walk operation."

Rasiang said that during the operation they were able to purchase $250 worth of "ice" from Toni using a "cooperating source" and an undercover officer.

The drug transaction allegedly occurred outside Toni's residence in San Jose, Tinian.

Rasiang said that, on Thursday the same group of officers used an undercover agent to purchase $200 worth of "ice" from Toni at the latter's residence.

Authorities had lately busted other Chinese nationals allegedly involved in "ice" trafficking on Saipan.

Jury panel selection cancelled

Superior Court Deputy Clerk Samantha C. Salas has announced that the prospective jurors of panel "HS" summoned for jury selection on Monday, Jan. 14, 2008 at 8:30am in Courtroom 217A is cancelled.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy birthday greetings go out to Terri L. Kisa, who is celebrating her birthday today, Jan. 14, 2008! Wishing you many more birthdays to come. Lots of love from your family and friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE
NMC
1981
Wakai Nekko
No Kai
Friendship
Golf Tournament
Wednesday, January 23, 2008
Show Time 6:00am – Shotgun Start 7:00am
Coral Ocean Point – Double Peoria Format
Tournament Fee - $75.00
Tournament Prizes 1st to 10th Places
1st Place : $400 + Trophy
2nd Place : $300 + Trophy
3rd Place : $200 + Trophy
4th Place : $100
5th–10th Place : Consolation
Hole In One
Hole No. 12
2008 Toyota
Yaris
Closest to Pin
Contest
Hole No. 7
Special Prize
Awards Banquet will immediately follow at the Coral Ocean Point Hotel - Pool Side
Awesome & Fabulous Door Prizes
Please submit entry forms at the
Mayor's Office Afetna Square, San Antonio attention Mr. Tony Benavente Ph: 234-6208 Fax: 234-1190 or MVA Office,
San Jose attention Mr. Martin Duenas Ph: 664-3200 Fax: 664-3237.
Make checks payable to Marianas Visitor Authority (Memo: WNNK).
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A GLIMPSE OF THE PAST

Looking back at the Mariana Islands the past 62 years

PHOTO BY DMS

Four trucks loaded with native students were brought to the 101 Sea Bee's Camp in Matansa (near the Marpi area) for a Christmas party in 1944.

GUAM

From Page 1

the same formations but flew into perhaps the thickest air defense assembled since World War II. Unlike in World War II, however, these air defenses were composed mostly of surface-to-air missiles. The US suffered heavy losses of crews and bombers.

During a stand-down on Christmas Day, Strategic Air Command and 8th Air Force decided to return to a principle of war: mass. A raid of 120 B-52s, 78 from Andersen and 42 from U Tapao AB, Thailand, was mounted during the night of Dec. 26. They overwhelmed North Vietnam's defenses by striking 10 targets, with all bombing runs completed within 15 minutes.

It was the largest launch of B-52s in history. Having accomplished their mission with only two bombers lost—both from U Tapao—they returned to Andersen.

Today, Guam is being revived as a pivot point in a sweeping realignment of US forces in the Pacific and Asia. The island will be a centerpiece in the American response to 21st century national security threats—notably a potential adversary in China.

Until now, the deployment of air, naval, and ground forces to the island reflected decisions made from World War II through the Cold War. Command lines, in particular, had become encrusted and needed to be streamlined. So, too, did the deployment of forces. Simply put, after Vietnam, Andersen and Guam fell into a lull that some called a "sleepy hollow."

Three times in subsequent years, however, the air base provided a haven. First it was for Vietnamese refugees, then for Americans fleeing from the Philippines after a volcanic eruption, and finally for Kurds from northern Iraq in 1996. Over those years, the island absorbed numerous typhoons and an earthquake.

Conceptual backing for Guam's strategic rebirth has come from several military thinkers. Retired Army Gen. Barry R. McCaffrey recently wrote that the looming challenge to the US in the Pacific and Asia is "the legitimate and certain emergence of the People's Republic of China [PRC] as a global economic and political power."

McCaffrey said that China was acquiring "the military muscle to challenge and neutralize the deterrence capacity of the US Navy and Air Force in the broad reaches of the Pacific maritime frontier." In addition, he wrote, "by 2020 we will face resurgent and expanding Russian Federation military power projection capacity as well as the likely emergence of other major maritime and air nuclear powers."

A Frontline Base

Guam has thus once again been thrust into the front lines of the US security posture.

Missions from the island are evolving into four: Deterrence, warfighting, supporting anti-terrorist and anti-piracy operations, and humanitarian assistance.

Deterrence is aimed at China, with its swiftly expanding military power; at North Korea, which has long threatened to assault South Korea; and at Russia, which has been reasserting itself with unknown consequences.

If deterrence fails and hostilities break out, Guam will become a front-line base. "We will fight from here," said Air Force Col. Joel S. Westa, vice commander of the 36th Wing at Andersen. The island's benefits are clear: It is sovereign US territory, it is central to numerous possible flash points, it provides strategic depth, and it has space available for a military buildup.

Not so incidentally, Guam is also situated along what the Chinese call the "second island chain" to which the communist military intends to project air and sea power in the foreseeable future. That island chain is anchored in central Japan, passes through Guam, and extends into the South Pacific. (The first island chain passes from southern Japan through Taiwan into the South China Sea.)

A buildup of forces from all four military services on Guam over the next 10 years has the potential to cause a clash of cultures on the crowded island, however.

"The services have different cultures and approaches to doing business," said Air Force Lt. Gen. Daniel P. Leaf, the deputy commander of US Pacific Command, who has been charged with overseeing the Guam buildup. "Those differences can cause a clash that is counterproductive, but we're committed to building a compatible construct for co-located units."

Accommodating this expansion of forces will require extensive construction, both on the existing bases and the civilian side of Guam. A master plan is under discussion within the military community there and between the military staff and the government of Guam. It is due to be completed in the spring of 2008 and to cover a period of 10 years.

A critical element will be protection from typhoons as Guam sits in a typhoon alley. Air Force officers said they would need 48 small, hardened hangars to house fighters against the weather. A large hangar for the Global Hawks and other large aircraft is under construction at a cost of $40 million. It is designed to withstand typhoon winds up to 170 mph and will be earthquake resistant. Bombers and tankers will not have new hangars but will necessarily be flushed to Kadena Air Base in Japan or to Hickam Air Force Base in Honolulu before a typhoon strikes.

Officers said initially they planned hangars for deploying B-2s because their stealth characteristic required that they be housed when not flying. That requirement has gone away because new technology made that protection unnecessary.

Some of Andersen's runways, known for the dip in the middle that makes a bomber almost disappear from sight before it climbs out and takes off, have been reinforced and others will be improved later.

The runways on the auxiliary Northwest Field, adjacent to the main base, still need to be resurfaced. PACOM has directed that Northwest Field be preserved with nothing built on it.

See GUAM on Next Page

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

January 14, 2002

Tic-toc, tic-toc, the timer's starting up

It's crunch time and the clock starts ticking today as Governor-elect Juan Babauta and Lt. Governor-elect Diego Benavente take over the unenviable task of turning the moribund economy of the Commonwealth around. Both Babauta and Benavente have promised to hit the ground running. Yet even in the run-up to today's inauguration ceremony, the squeeze is already on, as the new administration will be coming into its own with a government operating on a continuing resolution.

Firm leadership amid economic difficulties

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio remained composed and firm despite the series of economic disasters that plagued his four-year term, which started with the Asian currency crisis and ended with the aftershocks of the September 11 tragedies. Government officials and business sector leaders have agreed that, despite depleting public coffers, Tenorio's administration managed to deliver basic social services sans interruption.

'Retro wage hike and land payment: Either resolve them or repeal them'

The government would need an estimated $89 million to pay off two of its most pressing obligations-the nearly $70 million it owes under the land compensation program and the $19 million it owes in retroactive pay to government workers. With plunging revenues facing the Commonwealth, it has therefore become necessary for the government to determine and decide within this year whether it should repeal the laws that created these problems in the first place, find other ways of paying off these obligations or pay them on a staggered basis.

January 14, 2003

NMI monitors US-Iraq conflict

CNMI authorities are regularly updated on the latest in America's progressing conflict with Iraq through frequent bulletins from the Homeland Security Department national office, which-according to Homeland Security Advisor Jerry Crisostomo-are "law enforcement sensitive" information privy to only a few. Crisostomo explained that the federal government forwards the electronic messages to homeland security representatives across the states and territories to keep the flow of information going.

USS Saipan heads for action

As the U.S. military orders more troops to prepare for war, do you know that one of the ships that could figure prominently in any potential Persian Gulf action is one that is intimately tied with the CNMI? The USS Saipan, a general purpose Amphibious Assault Ship (or LHA), left Norfolk, Virginia, Sunday, for an undisclosed destination, even as the U.S. military directed several more deployments for the Persian Gulf.

Aussie envoy visits NMI

Australian Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia Brendan Doran arrived last night for a one-week visit to the Commonwealth, during which he is expected to discuss with ranking local officials issues of mutual interest such as tourism and trade. Doran, accompanied by his wife Debra, arrived from Guam at 8:30pm aboard a Continental Airlines flight. He will be staying at the Hyatt Regency Hotel-Saipan during the duration of his visit from January 14 to 19.

January 14, 2005

CUC sees $1.7M shortfall

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is projecting a $1.7-million budget shortfall by the middle of February, when the firm pays $5.1 million for power generation fuel. In a cash flow analysis dated Jan 12, 2005, a copy of which was obtained by Saipan Tribune, CUC comptroller Sohale Samari indicated that the utility firm will face the shortfall next month with or without implementing a fuel surcharge.

'Budget bill better vetoed than passed'

Government department heads said they support the governor's veto of the proposed fiscal year 2005 budget, although it would mean running their offices in a very tight fiscal position. "It's very difficult to operate with our budget right now but I have no choice. That [veto action] is the governor's discretion," said Public Safety Commissioner Sandy Tudela.

GUAM

From Page 8

Facilities to support the Navy's incoming fast-attack and cruise missile submarines are mostly in place, but the Apra Harbor must be dredged and maintenance shops built to service nuclear-powered aircraft carriers.

It is the Marines Corps, thinking of 50 to 70 years on Guam, that will need to do the most work to accommodate a coming influx of 17,000 people. The bill for buildings, hangars, embarkation points, repair shops, housing, and moving costs is estimated to come to $10 billion, of which the Japanese government has pledged to pay 60 percent.

Marine Corps survey teams have identified several sites they could use. An area known as Andersen South has an old and not well-maintained housing area that could be used for training in house-to-house fighting. Two sites in the waist of the island could be used for maneuvers. Similarly, an old Navy ammunition storage area in the south might be used for small-arms training.

The Air Force already maintains what it calls a "persistent presence" of bombers at Andersen. Normally, a squadron of B-52s, B-1s, or B-2s is on the island on a four-month rotation. That presence may increase if the Navy's aircraft carriers are away in the Indian Ocean

A B-52D leaves a heavy smoke trail behind as it takes off for a mission over North Vietnam during Operation Linebacker in 1972. Another one waits its turn.

or elsewhere, with bombers being called on to backfill.

Four stealthy B-2 bombers from the 509th Bomb Wing at Whiteman AFB, Mo., deployed to Andersen in October, for example, to replace six B-52s from the 2nd Bomb Wing at Barksdale AFB, La.

Fighters will also often be at Andersen, again on four-month rotations, but not necessarily with the continual presence shown by the bombers. Eighteen F-16 fighters from the 27th Fighter Wing, Cannon AFB, N.M., were at Andersen in mid-2007, but were not immediately replaced.

In later years, the fighters deployed to Andersen will include the new F-22 Raptor. Three of the Air Force's seven F-22 squadrons are to be assigned to Pacific Air Forces, with two to be based in Alaska and one in Hawaii. One Raptor squadron has already done a familiarization tour on Guam and at Kadena.

The Raptor performs both air-to-air and air-to-ground missions and is designed to penetrate thick air defenses such as that the Chinese are constructing.

Further, the Air Force will station three Global Hawk unmanned surveillance aircraft at Andersen, with the first due to arrive in mid-2009; a fourth is possible later.

These high-flying, long-endurance drones will give commanders near-real-time intelligence. During a typical Global Hawk mission, the aircraft can fly more than 1,300 miles at 65,000 feet and remain on station for 24 hours. Shanghai, on the coast of China, is 1,900 miles from Guam, while Seoul, the South Korean capital, is 2,000 miles distant.

A Tanker Presence

Besides its conventional combat missions, PACOM officials said Global Hawk could target terrorist training camps in Southeast Asia or pirates in the South China Sea. From Guam to Singapore is 2,900 miles. The intelligence UAVs could also support humanitarian mis-

Weapons specialists (l-r) A1C Tommy Day, SrA. Phillip Ruiz, and TSgt. Dwayne Bolles prepare to load a BDU-56 bomb on a B-2 at Andersen. (USAF photo by MSgt. Val Gempis)

Two F-16 fighters go wheels-up for aerial intercept training at Andersen. (USAF photo by SMSgt. Mahmoud Rasouliyan)

sions such as the disaster relief operation mounted after the destructive tsunami in the Indian Ocean in 2004.

Tankers have also begun rotations to Andersen. Earlier this year, an expeditionary squadron from MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Fla., and Grand Forks AFB, N.D., did a 120-day rotation on Guam. Air National Guard tankers will also come.

Bomber and fighter squadrons will bring tankers with them, but several will need to be stationed at Andersen to support permanent missions. "We are tanker dependent," says Lt. Gen. Loyd S. Utterback, who commands 13th Air Force at Hickam. "We need [tankers] to get there and to stay there," he said, noting that tanker recapitalization is the No. 1 modernization priority for the Air Force.

The Navy's role in the military expansion on Guam centers on attack submarines already deployed to the island; on a way station for two newly converted submarines armed with cruise missiles; and on a new berth for an aircraft carrier. This carrier berth will mean a flattop need not return to Hawaii or the West Coast for routine maintenance or resupply.

The three fast-attack submarines (fast-attack being one word in submarine lingo) are supported by the tender *Frank Cable*. The advantage of having these boats based in Guam is that it helps to overcome "the tyranny of distance." In a crisis, a submarine can get to the Taiwan Strait, for instance, in 48 hours as opposed to the six days the trip would take from Pearl Harbor—or the more than eight days from San Diego.

The cruise missile carriers, based in Bangor, Wash., have been converted from ballistic missile submarines, or boomers, and can

USS Kitty Hawk arrives in Guam in June 2007. (USN photo by Mass Comm. Spec. Seaman Stephen Rowe)

each be armed with up to 154 cruise missiles. Those missiles can be fired singly or in salvo and at ships or targets on land. The two being assigned to the Pacific Fleet are *Michigan* and *Ohio*.

Each will have a Blue and a Gold crew, like the boomers, so they can stay on patrol for up to 400 days. In the middle of that deployment, they will surface and pull into Guam for 21 days to swap crews, undertake maintenance, and take on fresh supplies. The submarines can also take aboard special operations forces, land them to infiltrate a target area, then return later to pick them up.

For many months, naval officers, political leaders, and a variety of lobbyists for commercial interests argued over where a sixth Pacific Fleet aircraft carrier should be based. Guamanians wanted the carrier there, some in Hawaii wanted it at Pearl Harbor, and others in California sought to have it based on the West Coast.

Permanent Assignments

San Diego won out, largely because the facilities to support a nuclear-powered carrier were in place already. Thus, when *Carl Vinson* comes out of overhaul in 2010, it will be based in San Diego.

The 97,000 ton carrier, its 85 aircraft, and crew of 5,700, however, will spend a lot of time in the western Pacific, the South China Sea, and the Indian Ocean. By building a berth at Guam, the Navy will be able to keep *Carl Vinson* and other nuclear-powered carriers based on the West Coast on station much longer than would otherwise be possible. A carrier can also be serviced in Japan, where the nuclear-powered carrier *George Washington* will replace the conventionally powered *Kitty Hawk* in 2008.

Other moves to Guam are permanent assignments.

The Army will have the smallest and as yet undetermined element in the new Guam. It is slated to post a ballistic missile defense unit on the island, but, Pacific Command officers said, just what that will be hasn't been decided. Whatever comes to Guam will be interlocked with Army missile defense units in Japan and naval vessels at sea.

Army Special Forces may use Guam and the Marianas for training, particularly for small units heading into the southern Philippines and the islands around the Sulu Sea. The Special Forces and other unconventional warriors from other services have been assisting Philippine forces in combating Islamic terrorists affiliated with al Qaeda where they are trained and then infiltrated into Malaysia and Indonesia. The Green Berets may invite Asian counterparts to Guam to train.

The largest personnel change involves the Marine Corps, which is scheduled to move almost half of the III Marine Expeditionary Force, including its headquarters, to Guam from Okinawa. Some 8,000 Marines and 9,000 civilian employees and Marine Corps dependents will leave Okinawa for Guam by 2015. A heavy helicopter squadron will move at the same time from Iwakuni, an air station near Hiroshima on Japan's main island of Honshu.

The impetus for the move initially came from the Japanese government, which wanted to ease the friction between Americans and Japanese on Okinawa. It was resisted by the Marine Corps, which argued that this political decision was militarily unsound. Over time, however, Marine Corps leaders found that training sites in Guam and its neighboring islands were more than adequate and their re-

Chinese armor forces listen to Marine Corps Gen. Peter Pace, then Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, after a demonstration at Shenyang training base in China. (DOD photo by SSgt. D. Myles Cullen)

sistance lessened.

Moreover, the Marine Corps came to realize that they would have freedom of action on Guam because the political restrictions under which they operated in Japan would evaporate.

Guam is US territory, as are the other islands in the Northern Marianas, and thus the Marines can come and go without notifying the Japanese government, which might or might not be receptive to the policies of whatever Administration is in office in Washington then. Indeed, after 2015, the US could even pick up Marines on Okinawa, bring them to Guam, and then dispatch them wherever in the world they have been ordered, without consulting Japan.

In the neighboring Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas north of Guam, the Marine Corps foresees joint use of Rota and Saipan for aviation landing practice, and Farallon de Medinilla, Anatahan, and Sarigan for both live and inert ordnance targets. Tinian and Pagan would be sites for amphibious assaults, maneuvers, and artillery live fire training.

Getting agreements with the government of Guam, which has been mostly supportive of the military expansion because it will bring in jobs and a boost to the economy, will be more complicated. The Marine Corps is working on what it calls a "contiguous base concept" in which family housing, work places, and individual training sites are within easy reach of one another.

At the same time, the military staff say they want to see military people absorbed into the culture of Guam. "We don't want a fence between us," says a marine official. "We want to be neighbors."

The arrival of roughly 17,000 people will put pressure on medical facilities, schools, child care, and other social services. In particular, the infrastructure needs a thorough overhaul, as the electrical grid, solid and liquid waste disposal, and the transportation system are not in good shape.

An initial estimate says it will take $10.3 billion to refurbish the infrastructure.

All this must be accomplished, Marine Corps officers said, while they mitigate the effects on the environment and find ways to prevent friction between their forces and the civilian community in Guam when everyone is living and working in close order on a tight little island.

Richard Halloran, formerly with The New York Times *as a foreign correspondent in Asia and as a military correspondent in Washington, D.C., is a freelance writer based in Honolulu. His most recent article, "The New Line in the Pacific," appeared in the December 2007 issue.*

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Passenger rights

Airline passengers going through New York now have something other put-upon travelers around the country don't have: a bill of rights. The airline industry wants to kill this first-in-the-nation law. It has only itself to blame for being in this position.

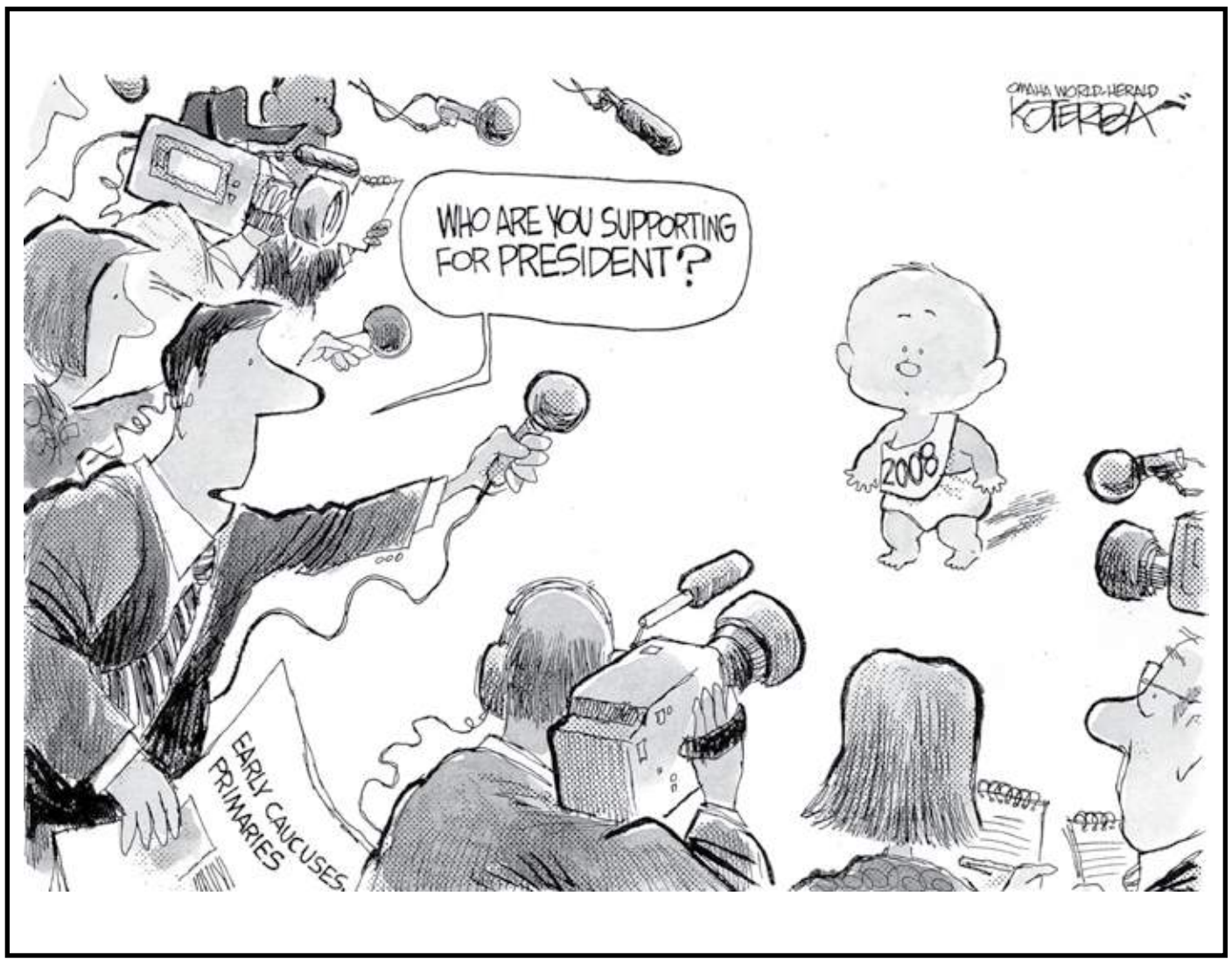
The New York law sprang from the horrendous events of last Valentine's Day. That's when a freak ice storm wreaked havoc on New York-area airports, and some passengers were trapped on airplanes for up to 10 hours with no water, food or working bathrooms. Airlines canceled flights by the hundreds and stranded thousands of people. What made matters worse was the lack of information from the carriers.

Congress was indignant and promised action that has yet to come. Just before Thanksgiving, the White House called on the airlines "to adopt legally binding contingency plans for lengthy tarmac delays." JetBlue, which failed miserably on that frosty February day, and some other airlines have done so. But not all of them have. Enter the Empire State.

If a flight is delayed three hours or more at John F. Kennedy or LaGuardia airports, the law requires the airlines to make fresh air, lights, functioning restrooms and "adequate food and drinking water" available. The law creates an airline consumer advocate office, which would investigate complaints. The state attorney general can slap the airlines with a penalty of up to $1,000 for every violation verified by the new watchdog. The Air Transport Association, whose membership hauls 90 percent of the passenger and cargo traffic in the country, has sued, arguing—not illogically—that airline regulation is a federal job.

The airlines find themselves facing regulation because they have not lived up to their promises to hold themselves accountable. Flight delays last year were the worst since records started being kept in 1995. The numbers of lost, damaged, stolen or delayed bags were at record levels also. Complaints from the public were up almost 40 percent between November 2006 and November 2007. Government micromanagement of airline operations is far from ideal. But it's hard to drum up much sympathy for the industry.

(c) 2008, The Washington Post



An open letter to our legislators: Part II

ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

Last week we discussed the awesome power vested in you. You legislators create and mold our community by the very laws you pass. I hasten to mention that I am not telling you what you should do or how you should act. I am merely reminding you of the responsibility you have and the trust we voters place in you. That said, let's examine some of the qualities each of you as leaders must cultivate if we, the citizens, are to believe in you and in what you decide for the community.

One of the most important qualities that you must possess is "trustworthiness." It is ironic that as our representatives, many of you are not trusted by the general public. I recently read a survey taken about a variety of occupations. The various occupations were ranked with 1 as the highest and 4 as the lowest.

The highest trustworthy occupation was dentistry with a rank of 1.43, followed by clergymen with 1.44. The survey revealed that the lowest trusted occupation was that of salesmen with a rank of 3.29. But guess what the *second lowest trustworthy occupation was*? Politics—with a rank of 3.18! Why is that? What do you do to earn this low esteem?

Here is a short self-evaluation quiz. Test yourself. Keep the results to yourself, but please try to improve any low ratings. Rate yourself on a scale of 1 to 5 with 1as the highest and 5 as the lowest.

1. I am self-disciplined and allow no excuses for myself. ___
2. I am highly motivated and enthusiastic about my challenges. ____
3. I am well educated in the legislative process. ____
4. I thoroughly understand the problems facing our community. ____
5. I study carefully both sides of all bills before I vote on them. ____
6. I do not introduce bills without careful thought that they are needed. ____
7. I strive in all my endeavors to be a leader.___
8. I am aggressive when I believe in a cause. ___
9. I read magazines and books on domestic and international affairs. __
10. I attend all sessions and prepare beforehand for them. ___
11. I have studied carefully and understand the history of the CNMI.____
12. I live what I believe in. ___
13. I am ethical in all my dealings. __
14. I feel my work as a legislator is a duty and a privilege. ___
15. I do not buy or repay votes with favors. ___
16. I listen to the plight of the people and try to fulfill their needs. ___
17. I try hard to encourage and motivate others. ___
18. I understand the relations between the U.S. and the CNMI. ___
19. I communicate frequently with my constituents for their input. ___
20. I have a strong willingness to help the CNMI. ___
21. I never put personal interests above my responsibilities. ___
22. I seek out different viewpoints to better understand a bill.___
23. I am willing to bend the rules when compassion is necessary. ___
24. I study the possible consequences of a bill before I endorse it.___
25. I understand the Constitution and the Covenant thoroughly.___

How did you rank? Is there room for improvement? Ask yourself: Do others see me as I see myself?

Why not consider a different approach to being a politician? Instead of being a run-of-the-mill politician who seeks office for the thrill of it, or for the power and notoriety of it, and for the financial rewards, become a statesman!

The best politician knows how to deftly manipulate power for personal advantage, but the statesman's allegiance is to loftier objectives. He seeks to lead by example and challenges. His duty is to country first and last. The statesman doesn't seek public office for personal gain or because it's the only job he knows how to do. And he certainly is not in it for the money.

Lawrence W. Reed in an essay best explains the qualities that define a statesman:

"The statesman takes time out from a life of accomplishment to serve the general welfare. He stands for a principled vision, not for what he thinks citizens will fall for. He is well informed about the vicissitudes of human nature, the lessons of history, the role of ideas, and the economics of the marketplace. He is a truth-seeker, which means he is more likely to do what's right than what may be politically popular at the moment. You know where he stands because he says what he means and means what he says. He elevates public discussion because he knows what he's talking about. He does not engage in class warfare or in other

See AN OPEN on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Letters to the Editor

CNMI teachers have spoken

In his most recent diatribe against ACT and all who support this teachers organization, Mr. Bennett has resorted to invectives and inaccuracies that cry out for correction. Here are just a few:

MYTH #1: Ambrose Bennett continues as BOE Teacher Representative? On what planet? No matter how he signs his letters to the editor these days, Mr. Bennett is no longer the Teacher Rep: his term has expired. His departure is also long overdue. He has neither sought nor obtained the endorsement of one teacher to prolong his tenure, and every CNMI teacher addressing the specter of his continued representation has spoken out against it.

As for ACT's alleged disparagement of Mr. Bennett? Forget about it. For proof positive of Mr. Bennett's vendetta against ACT, his refusal to participate in any teacher organization (unless he gets to run it), and his endless derogation of those who disagree with him, one only has to read the newspapers (Mr. Bennett's preferred means of communication) and visit ACT's website. See Act now and Speak Up, CNMI Teachers (www.cnmiactnow.com.). Mr. Bennett has no support or authority to justify his appointment to the Board.

MYTH #2: The CNMI Constitution prohibits an administrator from serving as teacher rep? Article XV, Section 1(d) of the NMI Constitution reads as follows: A member of the board of education shall be qualified to vote in the Commonwealth, at least twenty-five years of age, and a resident and domiciliary of the Commonwealth for at least five years immediately preceding the date on which the member takes office. A longer residency and domicile requirement may be provided by law. This provision does not prevent any duly qualified teacher from serving simply because she may also be an administrator.

As to the composition of the Board, moreover, Section 1(c) of Article XV further provides: The board of education shall have five members, elected at large on anon-partisan basis as follows: one from the first senatorial district, one from the second senatorial district and three from the third senatorial district. Elected members of the board of education shall serve terms of four years except that the terms of the first members elected shall be determined by drawing of lots with three members serving a term of four years and two members serving a term of two years. The governor shall appoint three nonvoting ex-officio members to the board of education: one member shall be a student attending a public school; one member shall be a representative of nonpublic schools; and one member selected by an exclusive bargaining representative of the teachers within the Department of Education. Elected members of the board shall serve commencing on the second Monday of January in the year following the regular general election at which they were elected.

Article XV, Section 1(c) likewise says nothing about teachers who serve as administrators. The situation is not ideal: in an ideal world, teachers would be crawling out of the woodwork to volunteer for this post. But this just isn't happening. Members of our community have pointed out that a major purpose served by appointing a teacher to the Board of Education is to ensure that the Board has the benefit of viewpoints from those on the proverbial firing line (teachers). At the same time, teachers obtain a real opportunity to address and voice their concerns to those involved in the implementation and establishment of educational policy.

The position of BOE teacher rep is purely advisory; the NMI Constitution does not empower the teacher rep with a vote. Nevertheless, Betty Miller is the only person who has volunteered and has garnered the support of those teachers sufficiently interested to participate in the process. Betty Miller, however, has recently been drafted to serve as an administrator. Even so, she has continued to serve teacher interests sincerely, without compromise, and with the fidelity one would expect from one seeking to voice teacher interests. Since there appears to be no question that the framers of the Constitution sought to involve a teacher selected by a representative of teachers and appointed by the governor to serve as the public school BOE teacher rep, who else has come forward to seek the approval from teachers, other than ACT president, Betty Miller?

MYTH #3: "The right thing to do given the circumstances was for me to remain at my post until teachers and the Governor can satisfy the CNMI Constitution." The only disrespect being shown here is by Mr. Bennett, and for Mr. Bennett's private and personal agenda to succeed, teachers need only continue to stand by and permit him to usurp a position to which he has no entitlement. Let's stick to the truth: after Ms. Miller agreed to act as vice principal, at least three meetings were held to afford all teachers—not just ACT members—the opportunity to come forward, share their concerns, and vote as to whether Ms. Miller should continue as a candidate for BOE teacher rep. All teachers were invited to speak out. The results of all three voting sessions remained the same. The overwhelming majority of those who took the time to voice their opinion requested that Ms. Miller remain as President and candidate to the Board of Education, notwithstanding her current administrative assignment at her school.

Two conclusions emerge from these facts. First, teachers want Ms. Miller to continue as President of ACT. Second, ACT and those CNMI teachers who took the time to consider the issue seek Ms. Miller's immediate appointment to the Board of Education. Teachers have been given the opportunity for an independent selection process. Those who care have spoken. Mr. Bennett, unsurprisingly, never showed up at a single meeting, never cast a vote, and simply abandoned the process. To effect the will of all teachers who care enough to act, therefore, the Governor should appoint Ms. Miller to the Board.

Phyllis Ain
San Vicente, Saipan

The future BOE teacher reps

I ran for the BOE post because I wanted to help teachers and the system. I fought many battles for teachers and even against teachers in the best interest of the common good and not the preferences of the board or individual teacher group. I won some of the battles and I lost some but given the fact that God is in this too, it now seems that I may have won the war. Strangely enough, the final battle didn't take place until the 11th hour on Jan. 11, two days before my official term ended, when the former board chairman and I filed a list of certified questions for the Supreme Court to resolve the disputes over the teacher representative post. Needless the say, if the court decides to address the petition, the Board of Education, the governor and teachers will be bound by the court's decision, which makes the future look very bright for the future BOE teacher rep. More important is the fact that should the court rule that "teachers can bargain with the BOE through the teacher rep," which is our right under federal law, I will have done what I started out to do—get teachers to the bargaining table.

I started on the path to get teachers bargaining rights in 1996, 12 years ago when I realized that the 1985 CNMI Constitution Amendment that created the teacher rep post had never been fulfilled properly and it is a great relief to see that it was not all for nothing. I'm sure the CNMI Constitution is also happy after 22 years of nobody paying it any attention. I guess I was the only one that cared enough but let that be a lesson to everyone that it only takes one person who really cares to make a difference and we all have that capacity.

I have done a lot to help the future BOE teacher rep and a lot for teachers even though many teachers are not even aware of my accomplishments. But I hope that whenever they get a check for attending a staff development activity or a refund for the annual leave they didn't use, they will think of me because I initiated these policies. But what I will be proud of most is the fact that I have established the teacher representative post with a real voice that can no longer be intimidated and brushed aside. I have established the fact that the teacher representative can only be removed by teachers, which empowers the teacher rep to speak freely and openly without fear of adverse repercussions from the board. Teachers now have a real voice on the board and a voice that can be just as powerful as any voting member if teachers will join in unison to support their teacher rep.

The future teacher reps will have it much better than I ever did and I envy them for that but I knew all along that I was breaking new ground to create *equality and fairness* for the person coming behind me—a phenomenon that has been a quality of my African-American culture since our arrival in America as slaves. The future BOE teacher rep will be in a much better position to influence the policies of the board with the ability to be a more accepted leader in the Public School System. I fought hard to establish the teacher rep post as an important part of the decision process and I proved it even though the board had to learn that lesson the hard way, I was right about PRAXIS and the board was wrong but they didn't listen. But I'm sure the new board will not follow the same ideology and methodology of the past, which clearly keeps hope on the horizon for all the stakeholders in our education system. *Adios* and God speed to the future BOE teacher reps.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Former BOE teacher rep

Thanks to Consulate

I wrote to this section last week of December 2007, desperate for my license verification with the CBNE. Now, I would like to thank you, for if not for this, nobody would have been able to help me. Thank you so much.

More importantly, my deepest gratitude to the kind, energetic, and efficient people at the Philippine Overseas Labor Office and the Philippine Consulate General's Office of Saipan, especially Joan Lavilla and acting Head of Post, Consul Belinda M. Ante. Our government back home has praised our OFWs (Overseas Filipino workers) so much as the new heroes of our times. I think more credit is due to the men and women who look after, take care, defend and protect Filipino workers in foreign lands. To all the Filipinos on Saipan, you guys are in very good hands!

Mario Apurado Jr
Sikeston, Missouri

Thank you

We express our sincere gratitude to Rep. Tina Sablan for her concern to the plight of the alien residents in the CNMI. Your advocacy for social justice and equal protection of law will always be remembered by the guest workers and their next generations. You are our champion in our quest and struggle for improved immigration status and fair treatment.

We appreciate and support your platform of government and program of action. We hope and pray for your success in all undertakings.

May the good Lord bless and guide you always! Good luck, thank you and *maraming salamat po*!

Jerry B. Custodio
Human Dignity Movement
Saipan,CNMI

AN OPEN

From Page 1

divisive or partisan tactics that pull people apart. He does not cynically buy votes with the money his taxes take from others. He may even judge his success in office as much by how many laws he repealed as by how many he passed."

The above qualities are demanding but separate the politician from the statesman who devotes his time and ability to uplift his nation. Until all of you strive to become statesmen, our CNMI will continue to falter. Unless you rise to the challenges as never before and show us by your leadership and deeds that we can revitalize ourselves, we will continue to be at best a mediocre society wholly dependent upon the United States as a child is to a parent.

Who of you will step forward and lead? How many of you grasp the seriousness of the dilemma we find ourselves in and are doing something about it? We, the constituents, elected you and placed our trust and hope in you to give us better times. Show us by your deeds, not words, that sacrifice, hard work and determination will give us back our prosperity and dignity. You have an awesome responsibility. Will you accept the challenges or will you be mere politicians like many others before you?

Anything you do in the Legislature has to be done as a unified group. One stand-out legislator can do little on his own. The most effective action is through a consensus of agreement. But that is where a statesmanship's ability enters. You must persuade your peers to see things through your eyes, through discussions and compromises. The plain fact is that politics is not a job. It is a duty. One enters it for the service of one's fellow citizens. If you truly believe in your duty, then live it!

The thoughts expressed here are written in behalf of the silent majority who plead with you to lead us. Hopefully these words will spur you to take heed of our pleas and act forcefully and in a positive manner. If the CNMI continues in an economic depression, don't blame anyone but yourselves. You will have failed us as past legislators have.

When you finally leave office, what do you want to be remembered for? What legacy will you leave our people? A wise man once said: "What we do for ourselves dies with us. But what we do for others, lives on forever."

Daily we hope for a better future with our faith and trust in you. Do not forsake us. May God grant you the power and wisdom to lead us.

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 20 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲82° ▼75°	▲81° ▼74°	▲80° ▼75°	▲80° ▼75

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲85	▼76
Palau	Partly Sunny	▲88	▼78
Yap	Partly Sunny	▲88	▼77
Chuuk	Partly Sunny	▲88	▼78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼74
Kosrae	Partly Sunny	▲88	▼76
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼74

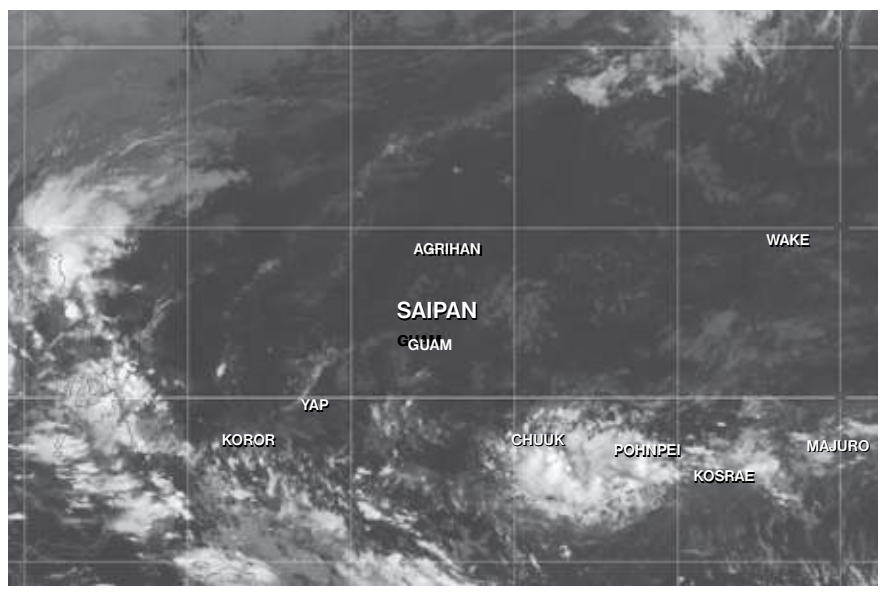
Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲75	▼64
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲30	▼10
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲72	▼59
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲77	▼66
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲46	▼39
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲72	▼49
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼73
Melbourne	Sunny	▲82	▼67
Miami	Partly Sunny	▲75	▼63
New York	Cloudy	▲38	▼33
Osaka	Partly Sunny	▲45	▼27
Paris	Rain/Snow	▲44	▼37
Pusan	Windy	▲40	▼19
Rome	Cloudy	▲53	▼46
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲45	▼34
San Francisco	Partly Sunny	▲58	▼45
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲32	▼16
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲46	▼37
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲47	▼35

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
05:15AM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
11:56AM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
06:31PM Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
11:46PM Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, JAN. 13, 2008
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A near-equatorial trough extends from 3N130E to EQ151E. Scattered showers associated with the trough are occurring south and southeast of Palau between the equator and a line from 6N130E to 6N143E to 1N146E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers from Chuuk eastward through the Marshall Islands between 4N and 10N from 149E to 180. Scattered showers are also found farther west between 8N and 10N from 142E to 144E. The remnants of an old shear line are producing scattered light showers from well north of Pohnpei eastward to the date line within 100 miles of a line from 14N160E to 13N165E to 16N180. A weak trade wind disturbance is generating scattered light showers east of the Marianas between 13N and 17N from 147E to 152E. A cold front stretches from 25N145E to 22N140E to 20N130E. Patchy cloudiness and isolated showers are found along and north of this relatively inactive front.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:46AM	6:05PM
Tuesday	6:47AM	6:06PM
Wednesday	6:47AM	6:06PM
Thursday	6:47AM	6:07PM
Friday	6:47AM	6:07PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:39AM	11:11PM
Tuesday	11:19AM	
Wednesday	12:02PM	12:06AM
Thursday	12:48PM	01:05 AM
Friday	01:40PM	02:07 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

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  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 11, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	5:00am	5:50am	1,2,4,5,6,7
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	2,3,4,5,6,7

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	4:00am	7:35am	1,4,5,7

Guam-Manila

CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

Saipan-Manila

CO 895	4:45pm	6:35pm	6
CO 895	6:45pm	8:35pm	3

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:30am	11:10am	Daily

Guam-Nagoya

CO 971	7:45am	10:30am	1,2,4,5,6,7
NW 023	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily
CO 904	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 078	8:30am	1:30pm	Daily via Nagoya
NW 075	4:55pm	7:30pm	Daily

Guam-Narita

JO 982	4:15am	7:00am	Daily
CO 961	7:20am	9:55am	Daily
CO 006	1:00pm	3:45pm	Daily
JO 942	3:30pm	6:15pm	Daily
NW 081	3:55pm	6:50pm	Daily
NW 073	4:15pm	7:00pm	Daily
CO 963	4:50pm	7:30pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:30pm	7:25pm	Daily

Guam-Hongkong

CO 910	7:45pm	10:40pm	1,5

Saipan-Guanzhou

CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7

Rota-Guam

CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Saipan-Shanghai

MU 590	4:20am	7:00am	2,6

ARRIVALS

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	1,4,5,6,7
CO 9316	3:30am	4:20am	2
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	2,3,4,5,6,7

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	10:00am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6
OZ 607	6:50pm	2:50am+1	3,7 via Busan
OZ 607	7:30pm	2:50am+1	4 via Busan

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7

Manila-Guam

CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2
CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6
CO 892	9:45pm	5:25am+1	3 via Koror
CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	11:10pm	4:40am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:15pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Manila-Saipan

CO 890	9:15am	2:55pm	6
CO 890	11:45am	5:35pm	3

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	8:45pm	1:10am+1	Daily

Nagoya-Guam

NW 024	10:00am	2:40pm	Daily
CO 970	11:30am	4:00pm	Daily
CO 905	8:25pm	12:50am+1	1,3,4,5,6,7

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:35am	3:05pm	Daily
NW 077	6:15pm	1:10am+1	Daily via Nagoya

Narita-Guam

JO 941	9:30am	2:05pm	Daily
NW 074	9:45am	2:25pm	Daily
CO 962	11:05am	3:35pm	Daily
CO 007	5:15pm	9:50pm	Daily
NW 082	8:30pm	1:15am+1	Daily
CO 964	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily
JO 981	9:30pm	2:05am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:40am	3:10pm	Daily

Hongkong-Guam

CO 910	11:40pm	6:20am+1	1,5

Guanzhou-Saipan

CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

Shanghai-Saipan

MU 589	8:05am	3:00am+1	1,5

(Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana. ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Business

States probe banks' role in risky loans

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)—Authorities in New York and Connecticut are investigating whether Wall Street banks hid crucial information about high-risk loans bundled into securities that were sold to investors, Connecticut's Attorney General said Saturday.

The investigations, first reported Saturday by The New York Times, center around "no-doc" or "exception" loans, that did not even meet subprime standards, Attorney General Richard Blumenthal said.

"The loans were made to people who did not have any documents to verify their income or other verification for key requirements normally applied to mortgage borrowers," he said. "Many of the lenders made large amounts of loans, so that the exception swallowed the rule, or became the rule."

The loans were sold by subprime lenders to Wall Street firms that bundled them with other, less risky, loans into securities.

Investigators want to find out whether the banks properly disclosed the high risk of default on those loans when selling those securities to investors in Connecticut and elsewhere, Blumenthal said.

"The investment banks may have used very broad, boilerplate disclaimer language that effectively failed to disclose fully and fairly all the information," he said.

AP
An auction sign rests in front of this foreclosed home in Shaker Heights, Ohio in this Tuesday, Oct. 30, 2007 file photo.

Blumenthal said Connecticut is cooperating with New York and that the investigation may eventually include the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The Times said charges could be filed in the coming weeks.

Jeffrey Lerner, a spokesman for New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo, declined to comment Saturday.

In November, Cuomo said he issued subpoenas to government-sponsored lenders Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac in his investigation into what he claims are conflicts of interest in the mortgage industry. He said he wanted to know about billions of dollars of home loans they bought from banks, including the largest U.S. savings and loan, Washington Mutual Inc., and how appraisals were handled.

Spokesmen for both lenders said they require accurate appraisals and both agreed to appoint independent examiners as requested. Washington Mutual said it was conducting its own internal investigation into Cuomo's claims and that "the company will vigorously defend itself from all unfounded allegations and lawsuits."

Blumenthal declined to say which firms were under investigation, but said his office had issued over 30 subpoenas.

"These practices involving trillions of dollars in securities sold to ordinary investors go to the core of our financial system's integrity and efficiency," Blumenthal said. "We regard this investigation as a priority."

BofA to pay $4.1B to buy Countrywide

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Bank of America said Friday it will buy Countrywide Financial for $4.1 billion in stock, a deal that rescues the country's biggest mortgage lender and expands the financial services empire of the nation's largest consumer bank.

The acquisition will make Charlotte-based Bank of America Corp. the nation's biggest mortgage lender and loan servicer.

Bank of America said it initially plans to operate Countrywide separately under the Countrywide brand, with integration occurring no sooner than 2009.

The transaction represented a 7.5 percent discount to where Countrywide shares ended Thursday after they soared on news that a rescue plan was in the works. It also effectively leaves Bank of America with a big loss on its $2 billion August investment in Countrywide Financial Corp. during the height of the summer's global credit crisis.

An aggressive dealmaker who has already snapped up behemoths FleetBoston Financial and MBNA, Bank of America chief executive Ken Lewis this time isn't buying a financial winner. Delinquencies and loans in pending foreclosure are rising in Countrywide's loan portfolio, and Lewis said Friday "there are near-term challenges" in the nation's housing market.

But Countrywide's troubles have allowed Lewis to sweep in and add a major business line to his supermarket of financial products on the cheap.

"Countrywide presents a rare opportunity for Bank of America to add what we believe is the best domestic mortgage platform at an attractive price and to affirm our position as the nation's premier lender to consumers," Lewis said in a statement.

It also places Lewis in the position of a market savior. By buying Countrywide, he's keeping the industry and regulators from the messy task of figuring out who would take on the responsibility of collecting payments for the 9 million U.S. home loans serviced by the Calabasas, Calif.-based lender. Lewis said Friday there was no government support for Countrywide's loan portfolio.

"There's still plenty of risk involved," said Bart Narter, senior analyst at Celent, a Boston-based financial research and consulting firm. "He's brave to do it. But I think that it's very likely down the road to be profitable, maybe not immediately, but long-term."

Northwest CEO addresses merger rumors

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—The chief executive of Northwest Airlines says his carrier could benefit from a merger—if it's the right deal.

As the Delta Air Lines Inc. board met to discuss the issue, Northwest Airlines Corp. chief Doug Steenland sent an internal memo to employees Friday saying his airline's board and management team would analyze any deal carefully.

"Most importantly, we will carefully consider the impacts on our own employees and ensure that the outstanding employees of Northwest Airlines are included in this process," he wrote. "The right transaction could be of benefit to our employees, our shareholders and the communities we serve."

AP
A Northwest Airlines jet taxis towards a gate at the Detroit Metropolitan Airport in Romulus, Mich., in this Aug. 10, 2006, file photo.

Steenland didn't say whether Delta had approached Northwest.

Delta officials were mum on the outcome of that company's board meeting Friday.

According to two people familiar with the situation, Delta's board was expected to be asked to allow formal talks between Delta and Northwest and UAL Corp.'s United Airlines, with the idea that Delta would ultimately choose to combine with one of the two. The people spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the talks.

Steenland said Northwest, which emerged from Chapter 11 bankruptcy in May, is better positioned than most of its competitors to run profitably. But he said fuel price increases have run above the carrier's projections, making it harder to maintain the same level of profitability and reinvest profits.

And he warned that Northwest, based in suburban Eagan, can't control or predict what other carriers or airline shareholders might do.

"Doing nothing could be our worst alternative," he said. "If we wait to react to what others do we could be left with options that are undesirable or with no options at all.

WSJ: Citi may get cash from Saudi prince

NEW YORK (AP)—Prince Alwaleed bin Talal, the Citigroup shareholder that came to the bank's rescue during the credit crisis of the early 1990s, might do so again now, the Wall Street Journal reported on its Web site Friday, citing people familiar with the matter.

The billionaire from Saudi Arabia, along with China Development Bank, is expected to invest about $2 billion in Citigroup Inc., one person said, according to the Journal. The Journal also said, however, there is a chance the deal could fall apart.

The cash-strapped Citigroup, hurt by the mortgage crisis that boiled up last year, has already gotten $7.5 billion from the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority. On Nov. 26, the ADIA bought a 4.9 percent stake in Citi, becoming its largest shareholder.

Alwaleed may take back that title if he makes another investment in Citi, though the report said his total stake is likely to remain below 5 percent to avoid regulatory scrutiny.

Citigroup spokesman Michael Hanretta declined to comment to the Associated Press about the report.

China Development Bank, which was established in 1994 and is now preparing to become a commercial lender, got a $20 billion injection Dec. 31 from China's sovereign wealth fund, China Investment Corp.

Asian funds have been buying up the pummeled shares of U.S. banks in need of capital. The deals not only dilute the value of the stock, but also worry some investors who are wary about foreign ownership of U.S. companies.

In recent months, China Investment Corp. said it is investing $5 billion in Morgan Stanley; Singapore's state-run Temasek Holdings invested $4.4 billion in Merrill Lynch; and China's government-controlled Citic Securities Co. and U.S. investment bank Bear Stearns Cos. agreed to invest $1 billion in each other for minority stakes that could be expanded.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Stocks slammed by bad credit fears

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street plunged again Friday amid renewed fears that the financial sector's troubles with bad credit won't soon end and that some consumers are buckling under the weight of a slowing economy. The major indexes each lost more than 1 percent, including the Dow Jones industrials, which finished down nearly 250 points. The arrival of quarterly earnings reports has investors worried about how banks and brokerages have fared after suffering losses in the collapse of the subprime mortgage market. Traders appeared to grow more pessimistic ahead of reports due next week from the nation's biggest financial institutions. Merrill Lynch & Co., Citigroup Inc. and JPMorgan Chase & Co. are slated to weigh in next week. Adding to investors' unease, Merrill Lynch might take a $15 billion hit from its exposure to soured subprime mortgage investments, according to The New York Times. The nation's largest brokerage is also said to be seeking another capital infusion to help shore up its balance sheet. Investors also grew nervous after American Express Corp. warned that slower spending and more delinquencies on credit card payments will hamper profit throughout 2008. A profit warning from Tiffany & Co. added to Wall Street's unease about the fortitude of the consumer.

Trade deficit soared in November

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. trade deficit in November rose to the highest level in 14 months, reflecting record foreign crude oil prices. The deficit with China declined slightly while the weak dollar boosted exports to another record high. The Commerce Department reported that the trade deficit, the gap between imports and exports, jumped by 9.3 percent, to $63.1 billion. The imbalance was much larger than the $60 billion that had been expected. The increase was driven by a 16.3 percent increase in America's foreign oil bill, which climbed to an all-time high of $34.4 billion as the per barrel price of imported crude reached new records while the volume of shipments declined slightly. With oil prices last week touching $100 per barrel, analysts are forecasting higher oil bills in future months. Ian Shepherdson, an analyst at High Frequency Economics, noted that the deficit was also pushed higher by a big drop in exports of commercial aircraft. He said that setback is likely to be only temporary given the orders backlog that Boeing must fill to meet global demand.

Nation

GOP candidates stump in Michigan

YPSILANTI, Mich. (AP)—Mitt Romney and John McCain argued about their concern for the auto industry, while Mike Huckabee spotlighted his opposition to abortion, as the Republican presidential contenders campaigned Saturday before Michigan's potentially make-or-break primary.

Romney, seeking a rebound in Tuesday's primary after losing to Huckabee in the Iowa caucuses and McCain in the New Hampshire primary, made an impromptu stop at a General Motors plant near here after 200 layoffs were announced last week.

He pledged to make restoring the domestic auto industry—once the linchpin of Michigan's economy—a top priority if elected president.

"In some respects, Michigan is like the canary in the mine shaft: What Michigan is experiencing, the whole nation will experience unless we fix what's happening in Michigan and learn lessons here we can apply across the nation," he said in Traverse City amid a fly-around of the state.

AP

The shadow of Republican presidential hopeful, former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, falls on an American flag, with former South Carolina Gov. David Beasley, left, and Mike Campbell campaign chairman for South Carolina, as he speaks at a campaign stop at Williams Brice Stadium at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, S.C. Saturday, Jan. 12, 2008.

Romney's criticism of Washington was a none-too-subtle shot at McCain, an Arizona senator who has said that some of Michigan's lost jobs are gone forever. A Detroit News poll being released Sunday showed the race a statistical dead heat, with McCain at 27 percent and Romney at 26 percent. Huckabee was third with 19 percent.

McCain defended his comment during a raucous rally before 400 supporters in Warren.

"I had to give some straight talk," McCain said. "Jobs are leaving the state of Michigan. They have left and will not come back, but we're going to create jobs, we're going to create a new economy. This is the smartest technological place in America. We have the smartest people here. We can do it. We can create jobs here."

Later, aboard his campaign bus, McCain continued his criticism of Romney.

"Governor Romney says he supports the industry yet when he was running for the governor of another state he wanted to raise the tax on SUVs," McCain said.

Aides distributed campaign literature from Romney's 2002 race for governor in Massachusetts in which Romney proposed a 10-year sales tax moratorium on hybrid vehicles, as well as reworking the vehicle excise tax to encourage the purchase of fuel-efficient cars.

Minority vote moves center stage

By ALLEN G. BREED
AP NATIONAL WRITER

With nomination contests in lily-white Iowa and New Hampshire settled, minority voting power now moves into the spotlight.

Historical realities suggest that blacks and Hispanics won't play much of a role in determining the Republican Party presidential nominee. But this year's Democratic primary and caucus schedule was designed specifically to give increased influence to minorities, particularly Latinos.

Voters in both groups are energized: Blacks by the early successes of Illinois Sen. Barack Obama, Latinos by the intense, sometimes xenophobic debate over immigration. But it's far from clear how those influences will play off each other.

Nevada's caucuses on Jan. 19 will give an early showcase of Hispanic voting. However, observers say the true impact of Latino influence might not be felt until the general election, notably in Western states like Colorado, New Mexico and Nevada—places where George Bush's margin of victory in 2004 was razor-thin.

When South Carolina Democrats hold their primary on Jan. 26—the state GOP contest is Jan. 19—the choices of substantial numbers of black voters will be tallied for the first time in this election.

Obama's stunning victory over Hillary Rodham Clinton in the Iowa caucuses and strong second in New Hampshire's primary showed he could win white votes. But some say the South Carolina contest offers a new test of his viability: Can he energize black voters in places where their numbers could help him win in November?

Race has played a key role in American politics for as long as there have been Democrats and Republicans.

Fred Garrett, a black South Carolinian, recalls how his parent's voted Republican, the party of Lincoln, before the Great Depression. But when Franklin Roosevelt offered a New Deal, they took it and shifted their loyalties to the Democrats.

Urgency of search for Marine questioned

JACKSONVILLE, N.C. (AP)—For months after a pregnant 20-year-old Marine accused a colleague of rape, her family says, she continued to work alongside her attacker and endured harassment at Camp Lejeune.

In the weeks after she disappeared, they believe, the sheriff's department was slow to act.

As authorities recovered Maria Lauterbach's remains Saturday from a fire pit where they suspect Marine Cpl. Cesar Armando Laurean burned and buried her body, her family asked why authorities didn't treat her case with greater urgency.

Naval investigators on Saturday said the pair had been separated on the job, a rape case was progressing and Laurean was under a protective order to stay away from Lauterbach. And Onslow County Sheriff Ed Brown insisted his department acted as best they could on the facts available.

"As soon as it went suspicious, we contacted the media and asked for help," Brown said. "The case did not produce enough evidence, other than she was just missing."

On Saturday, her burnt remains, and those of her unborn child, were excavated from Laurean's backyard.

"As well as I could see, the body was much charred," Brown said. "The fetus was in the abdominal area of that adult. ... That is tragic, and it's disgusting."

Authorities have issued an arrest warrant on murder charges for Laurean, 21, of the Las Vegas area. They say he fled Jacksonville after leaving behind a note in which he admitted burying her body.

In his note, Laurean wrote Lauterbach cut her own throat in a suicide, but Brown doesn't believe it and challenged Laurean to come forward and defend his claims of innocence.

Authorities have described a violent confrontation inside Laurean's home that left blood spatters on the ceiling and a massive amount of blood on the wall.

FBI finds Blackwater trucks patched

WASHINGTON (AP)—Blackwater Worldwide repaired and repainted its trucks immediately after a deadly September shooting in Baghdad, making it difficult to determine whether enemy gunfire provoked the attack, according to people familiar with the government's investigation of the incident.

Damage to the vehicles in the convoy has been held up by Blackwater as proof that its security guards were defending themselves against an insurgent ambush when they fired into a busy intersection, leaving 17 Iraqi civilians dead.

U.S. military investigators initially found "no enemy activity involved" and the Iraqi government concluded the shootings were unprovoked.

The repairs essentially destroyed evidence that Justice Department investigators hoped to examine in a criminal case that has drawn worldwide attention. The Sept. 16 shooting has strained U.S. relations with the Iraqi government, which wants Blackwater expelled from the country. It also has become a flash point in the debate over whether contractors are immune from legal consequences for their actions in a war zone.

Blackwater's four armored vehicles were repaired or repainted within days of the shooting, and before FBI teams went to Baghdad to collect evidence, people close to the case said. The work included repairs to a damaged radiator that Blackwater says is central to its defense.

ACROSS THE NATION

3 shot, hostage taken in Ky.; 1 arrest

MUSES MILLS, Ky. (AP)—A man suspected of killing two people and wounding a third, then taking the mother of his children hostage, was captured early Saturday, Kentucky State Police said. The hostage, 27-year-old Bonnie Butler, was found uninjured, troopers said. One of those killed was described as the father of her unborn child. Roy Pollard Jr. was arrested about three miles from the scene of the shootings at a house in a remote area of Fleming County in eastern Kentucky, Trooper Ralph Lockard said. Butler was found about an hour before Pollard's arrest when she went to a farm and called police, Lockard said.

FAA probes near-collision at Atlanta

ATLANTA (AP)—The Federal Aviation Administration is investigating a near-collision of two airplanes on the runway at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport on Friday. Investigators believe an Atlantic Southeast Airlines flight bound for Greensboro, N.C., ignored orders from the control tower to stop its taxi across the runway, coming within seconds of running into a Mexico-bound Delta Air Lines Inc. jet, FAA spokeswoman Kathleen Bergen said. The ASA pilot acknowledged the orders and repeated them back to controllers in the tower but did not stop, Bergen said. The ASA jet was carrying 44 passengers, and the Delta flight had 130 aboard.

New probe in 1988 murders after release

NEW YORK (AP)—The state's attorney general said Saturday he will lead a new investigation into the 1988 murders of a couple whose son served 17 years in prison before an appeals court said he might be innocent. Attorney General Andrew Cuomo said Gov. Eliot Spitzer appointed him as a special prosecutor in the case of Arlene and Seymour Tankleff, who were bludgeoned and stabbed to death at their home on Long Island. "I'm confident that we can look at it independently, with a top team of prosecutors, that will follow the evidence wherever it leads," Cuomo said.

WTC fire probe focuses on contractors

NEW YORK (AP)—The August blaze that killed two firefighters at a condemned skyscraper across from ground zero exposed incompetence at multiple government agencies that either owned it or oversaw its long-delayed demolition. But a months-old criminal investigation into the fire has apparently focused more attention on the private contractors working to dismantle a former bank building than the government agencies that hired them. A grand jury has been meeting for weeks to consider criminal charges in the Aug. 18 fire at the former Deutsche Bank tower, people familiar with the investigation told The Associated Press. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly discuss the criminal probe. The Manhattan District Attorney's Office declined comment.

Asia

Opposition wins big in Taiwan poll

AP

Taiwan's opposition Nationalist Party supporters celebrate the party's win of more than two thirds in the legislative elections in Taipei, Taiwan, Saturday, Jan. 12, 2008.

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Taiwan's opposition Nationalist Party won a landslide victory in legislative elections Saturday, giving a big boost to its policy of closer engagement with China two months before a presidential poll it now seems poised to win.

President Chen Shui-bian, who has been criticized for aggravating relations with China by promoting policies to formalize Taiwan's de facto independence, resigned as chairman of the ruling Democratic Progressive Party immediately after the extent of the defeat became clear.

"I should shoulder all responsibilities," Chen said. "I feel really apologetic and shamed."

His resignation does not affect his status as president.

With all votes counted, the official Central Election Commission said the Nationalists had won 81 seats in the 113-seat Legislature, against only 27 for the DPP, with four going to Nationalist-leaning independents, and one to a Nationalist satellite party.

Critics say Chen's China policies have allowed Taiwan's once-vibrant economy to lose competitiveness and have ratcheted up tension in the perennially edgy Taiwan Strait.

The Nationalists ruled a united China before 1949 and were the mainland communists' enemies in the civil war. But the party and Beijing have in recent years found common cause in their opposition to Chen.

Washington also has made it clear it finds Chen's policies toward Beijing dangerous and provocative—particularly a planned referendum on Taiwanese membership in the United Nations, which appears designed to underscore the democratic island's political separateness from the communist mainland.

A March 22 presidential election to chose a successor to Chen, who must step down after eight years in office, pits the ruling DPP's Frank Hsieh against Ma Ying-jeou of the Nationalist Party. Recent opinion polls give Ma a 20-point lead, and Saturday's win by his party is likely to give the former Taipei mayor a further boost.

The DPP wants to formalize the independence Taiwan has had since an inconclusive civil war nearly 60 years ago—but has held off out of fears that China would make good on its repeated threats to attack. In contrast, the Nationalists favor more active engagement with China and do not rule out eventual unification.

Speaking at Nationalist headquarters in Taipei, Ma relished his party's victory—enough to give it a three-fourths majority together with the five allies—but cautioned against overconfidence going into the presidential elections.

"We need to be cautious about the presidential poll, and hopefully we can win," he said. "With a Nationalist presidency and Nationalist-controlled legislature, we can push forward the reform expected by the Taiwanese people."

Suharto's condition improves slightly

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Doctors struggling to prolong the life of former dictator Suharto said he was showing slight signs of improvement Saturday, a day after he suffered organ failure and was placed on a ventilator. Asked if he was in pain, the 86-year-old nodded 'yes' before drifting back to sleep.

Among the stream of visitors at the hospital in recent days was Indonesian Attorney General Hendarman Supanji, who said the government wanted to settle a civil corruption case against Suharto, seeking $1.5 billion in damages and funds allegedly stolen from the state.

Lawyers representing the former strongman rejected the proposal and said it was not the proper time to discuss it.

"How we can accept this offer when there is no evidence of corruption?" Otto Cornelis Kaligis told The Associated Press.

Suharto, whose 32-year regime was widely regarded as one of the 20th century's most brutal and graft-ridden, was hospitalized in critical condition a week ago with anemia and a low heart rate. He initially responded well to a blood transfusion and kidney dialysis, but his condition sharply deteriorated days later.

Pakistan expels writer for the *NY Times*

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistan has expelled an American journalist who wrote in The New York Times Magazine about the rise of pro-Taliban militants in this key U.S. ally, a media rights group said Saturday.

A Pakistani official denied that Nicholas Schmidle had been deported, however, and said the American lacked a journalist visa. Schmidle, a visiting scholar at Pakistan's state-run Institute of Strategic Studies in the capital, Islamabad, occasionally wrote media articles.

A statement issued by the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists said the Interior Ministry issued a deportation order to Schmidle on Tuesday—less than a week after his report "Next-Gen Taliban" appeared in The New York Times Magazine.

"CPJ is unfortunately accustomed to reporting on the government's attacks on the local media, but now harassment seems to be spreading to foreign journalists as well," said Joel Simon, the CPJs executive director.

Schmidle's article, published on Jan. 6, was based on interviews with some of the officials, clerics and fugitive militant leaders who were on the run or fighting security forces in the valley of Swat and in tribal areas along the Afghan border.

Sri Lankan military: 27 Tamil rebels, 2 soldiers killed in fighting

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Fighting between Sri Lankan soldiers and separatist Tamil rebels left 27 guerrillas and two soldiers dead in the country's embattled north, the military said Sunday.

Troops fought separate gunbattles with Tamil Tigers on Saturday in Vavuniya district, just south of the rebels' de facto state, killing 11 insurgents, military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara said.

One soldier was also killed and three others were wounded, he said.

In nearby Mannar district, soldiers killed 15 insurgents, Nanayakkara said. The battle left one soldier dead and five others wounded.

One more rebel died in a clash in Jaffna, he said.

The rebels could not be reached for comment. It was not possible to independently verify the military's claims because the fighting took place deep in the jungles of the north, and access to the area is restricted.

Each side routinely exaggerates the other's casualties and plays down its own.

Violence has escalated since Jan. 3 when the government withdrew from a 2002 ceasefire, with at least 296 people killed—283 rebels, nine soldiers and four civilians—according to military figures.

ASIAN BRIEFS

High-level Malaysian inquiry looms for video alleging judicial corruption

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—A high-level Malaysian commission was set to begin hearing testimony Monday from top political and judicial figures in its investigation of a video that allegedly shows a prominent lawyer brokering the appointment of top judges. Concerns surfaced about judicial corruption after opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim released a video clip in September showing the lawyer talking on his mobile phone and identifying the person on the other end as a senior judge. The video clip has become widely available on the Internet, but its authenticity has not been confirmed. In the clip, the lawyer is heard speaking about how he helped the judge get appointed and discusses plans to elevate him further with the help of a business tycoon and a senior politician. A number of judges are also named during the conversation. The lawyer, Anwar and other prominent Malaysian figures—including former Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad—are expected to testify during the next two weeks before the commission, which was set up by the government to investigate the scandal. Commission officials have not revealed the order in which witnesses will be called.

Two Dutch soldiers killed in Afghanistan

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands (AP)—Two Dutch soldiers were killed in a clash with militants in Afghanistan, the Netherlands' Defense Ministry said on Sunday. A 20-year old private and a 22-year old corporal died during a firefight with "opposing militant forces" on Saturday at around 9 p.m. local time, the ministry said. Two Afghan soldiers were killed in fighting later the same evening, the ministry said. Around 1,650 Dutch are serving in the southern Afghan province of Uruzgan as part of the NATO mission there. Since their mission began last year, 14 Dutch troops have died. The firefight took place around 3 miles northwest of Camp Hadrian, near the southern town of Deh Rawod, said Gen. Dick Berlijn, commander of Dutch forces in Afghanistan.

China's coal mines kill 3,786 in 2007

BEIJING (AP)—Accidents in China's notoriously dangerous coal mines killed nearly 3,800 people last year, state media reported Saturday—a toll that is a marked improvement from previous years, but still leaves China's mines the world's deadliest. A total of 3,786 were killed in mining accidents in 2007—20 percent lower than the 2006 toll, indicating the effectiveness of a safety campaign to shut small, illegal mining operations and reduce gas explosions, the Xinhua News Agency quoted the head of China's government safety watchdog as saying. Coal is the lifeblood of China's booming, energy-hungry economy. The mining industry's safety, which has never been good, has often suffered as mine owners push to dig up more coal to take advantage of higher prices. Chinese mines produced 2.5 billion tons of coal last year, Xinhua said, nearly 8 percent more than in 2006.

Fire guts Calcutta market

CALCUTTA, India (AP)—A huge fire raged through a central market in the east Indian city of Calcutta Saturday, destroying more than 1,000 shops and homes and leaving hundreds homeless but causing no casualties, police and fire officials said. It was not clear how the blaze began in the early morning in the makeshift stalls and shops in Calcutta's famous wholesale market area of Burrabazar, Police Commissioner Gautam Mohan Chakraborty said.

World

Bush says troop cutbacks might stop

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP)—President Bush said Saturday he is open to the possibility of slowing or stopping plans to bring home more U.S. troops from Iraq, defying domestic demands to speed the withdrawals. Updated on war developments, Bush said the U.S. presence in Iraq will outlast his presidency.

Bush said any decision about troop levels "needs to be based upon success," but that there was no discussion about specific numbers when he was briefed by Gen. David Petraeus, the top U.S. commander in Iraq, and Ryan Crocker, the U.S. ambassador to Baghdad.

The president was cheered by news that Iraq's parliament had approved legislation reinstating thousands of former supporters of Saddam Hussein's dissolved Baath party to government jobs. Bush had prodded Iraqi leaders for more than a year to enact the law.

"It's an important step toward reconciliation," Bush said as he opened talks with Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa al-Khalifa. "It's an important sign that the leaders of that country understand that they must work together to meet the aspirations of the Iraqi people."

The first U.S. president to visit Bahrain received a splashy welcome. Sword-waving men in flowing robes and headdresses swayed and danced to rhythmic music in a palace courtyard. The president and the king were presented with swords and flashed them skyward.

The war, now in its fifth year, was a dominant theme during Bush's stops in Kuwait and Bahrain, two Persian Gulf nations crucial to U.S. military efforts in the region. Kuwait, invaded by Saddam and liberated by a U.S.-led war in 1991, is a major military staging area for the deployment of U.S. troops and equipment. Bahrain is headquarters of the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet.

Bush, speaking to U.S. forces in Kuwait, gave one of his most optimistic assessments of the war. "There is no doubt in my mind when history was written, the final page will say: Victory was achieved by the United States of America for the good of the world," he said.

Bush began the day receiving an hourlong briefing from Petraeus and Crocker at Camp Arifjan, the largest U.S. base in Kuwait and home to about 9,000 American troops. Acting on the two men's recommendation a year ago, Bush ordered a buildup of 30,000 U.S. forces in Iraq. In September, again on their advice, Bush announced he would withdraw some troops from by July—essentially the 30,000 in the buildup—but still keep the U.S. level there at about 130,000.

With Petraeus at his side, Bush said, "My attitude is, if he didn't want to continue the drawdown, that's fine with me, in order to make sure we succeed, see. I said to the general, `If you want to slow her down, fine. It's up to you.'"

Petraeus and Crocker are to give Congress an update on Iraq in March and make a recommendation about troop levels.

"Iraq is now a different place from one year ago," the president said. "Much hard work remains, but levels of violence are significantly reduced. Hope is returning to Baghdad and hope is returning to towns and villages throughout the country."

Iraq to reinstate Saddam party former followers

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraq's parliament passed a benchmark law Saturday allowing lower-ranking former members of Saddam Hussein's Baath party to reclaim government jobs, the first major piece of U.S.-backed legislation it has adopted.

Traveling in Manama, Bahrain, President Bush hailed the law as "an important step toward reconciliation."

"It's an important sign that the leaders of that country understand that they must work together to meet the aspirations of the Iraqi people," he said.

The seismic piece of legislation had been demanded by the United States since November 2006 and represented the first legislative payoff for Bush's decision to deploy 30,000 additional troops to the country to quell violence.

In announcing the troop buildup more than a year ago, Bush said it would provide the Iraqi government "breathing space" to begin tackling legislation designed to reconcile Iraq's Shiite and Sunni Arabs as well as Kurds.

Other benchmarks languish, though, including legislation to divvy up the country's vast oil wealth, constitutional amendments demanded by the Sunni Arabs and a bill spelling out rules for local elections.

It was not immediately clear how many former Baathists would benefit from the new legislation, titled the Accountability and Justice law. But the move was seen as a key step in the reconciliation process.

With nuke rebirth come new worries

VIENNA, Austria (AP)—Global warming and rocketing oil prices are making nuclear power fashionable, drawing a once demonized industry out of the shadows of the Chernobyl disaster as a potential shining knight of clean energy.

Britain is the latest to recommit itself to the energy source, with its government announcing support Thursday for the construction of new nuclear power plants. Nuclear power plants produce around 20 percent of Britain's electricity, but all but one are due to close by 2023.

However, some countries hopping on the nuclear bandwagon have abysmal industrial safety records and corrupt ways that give many pause for thought.

China has 11 nuclear plants and plans to bring more than 30 others online by 2020. And a Massachusetts Institute of Technology report projects that it may need to add as many as 200 reactors by 2050.

Of the more than 100 nuclear reactors now being built, planned or on order, about half are in China, India and other developing nations. Argentina, Brazil and South Africa plan to expand existing programs; and Vietnam, Thailand, Egypt and Turkey are among the countries considering building their first reactors.

The concerns are hardly limited to developing countries. Japan's nuclear power industry has yet to recover from revelations five years ago of dozens of cases of false reporting on the inspections of nuclear reactor cracks.

CONGO RANGERS IN THE MIST AP

A silverback gorilla looks on at Volcanoes National Park in Ruhengeri, Rwanda, Friday, Nov. 30, 2007. More than 12,000 tourists make treks to Rwanda each year to see gorillas, paying $500 apiece for the privilege. Across the border in Congo, park rangers in Virunga National Park managed to escort about 817 people on gorilla visits in 2007.

Freed Colombian hostages relate ordeal

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Clara Rojas, one of two hostages freed after years held captive by Colombian rebels, gave birth to her son nearly four years ago by kitchen-knife Caesarean and has not seen him since he was taken from the jungle at 8 months old.

"Very soon I will meet him, and little by little we'll start sharing what for us is a rebirth," Rojas told reporters late Friday in Caracas, where she and fellow captive Consuelo Gonzalez met their families and thanked Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez for engineering their release.

Long treks through the forest, prisoners held in chains, and terrifying aerial raids also marked some six years in captivity. Wearing a photo of her son dangling from her neck, Rojas said it wasn't until two weeks ago that she learned what had happened to 3-year-old Emmanuel, hearing on the radio that he was in a foster home in Bogota.

The handover of Rojas and Gonzalez was the most important hostage release in the Colombian conflict since 2001, when the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, freed some 300 soldiers and police officers.

Rojas—an aide to former Colombian presidential candidate Ingrid Betancourt, who remains in captivity—spoke in general terms about the rebel who fathered her son, reportedly a rank-and-file guerrilla named Rigo.

"I never saw the boy's father again," she said in one Colombian radio interview.

"I don't have any information about the boy's father. What's more, I don't have any idea if he even knows he's the boy's father," Rojas said at a news conference, holding the hand of her elderly mother. "The information I have is that he could even have died. I don't have any confirmation."

After she learned she was pregnant, Rojas shared the news with her fellow captives—"this happiness but also of course the anxiety."

WORLD BRIEFS

7,200 register for Iranian elections

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Some 7,200 people have registered as prospective candidates for the upcoming parliamentary elections that are widely seen as a referendum on rule of hardline President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. The elections will not change the direction of Iran's nuclear policies, which are increasingly in the international spotlight and determined by Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, but they will be a key test of Ahmadinejad's hold on power and a harbinger for the 2009 presidential elections. Iran's Interior Minister Mostafa Pourmohammadi said a total of 7,200 people, including 590 women, registered for the March 14 elections.

Militants occupy Corsica parliament

AJACCIO, Corsica (AP)—Militant nationalists occupied the local parliament building Saturday while police outside dispersed demonstrators with tear gas in the capital of this French Mediterranean island. A fire erupted on the building's fifth floor, where the offices of Assembly President Camille de Rocca Serra are located. The cause of the blaze was not immediately clear, and the full extent of the damage was not known. Nationalists occupied the building earlier Saturday after several hundred people demonstrated in the streets to protest what they claimed was growing repression on the island. They also were protesting the life sentence imposed last week on Yvan Colonna, a Corsican nationalist, for the 1998 murder of Claude Erignac, the state's highest representative.

South Africa's top cop going on leave

PRETORIA, South Africa (AP)—South Africa's national police commissioner, who faces charges of corruption and trying to protect a convicted drug smuggler, has gone on extended leave, the president said Saturday. The National Prosecuting Authority said Friday that charges would be filed imminently against Jackie Selebi, who also holds the largely ceremonial post of president of the international police agency Interpol. Selebi has consistently said he is innocent. President Thabo Mbeki sought to reassure a nervous public that the government would continue its fight crime in a country that has more than 50 murders a day. "Work will go on as normal. The police and all of its ranks will continue with its work as normal," he told a news conference called to announce Selebi's leave.

Activists: Kenyan violence orchestrated

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—The price for burning down a home: 500 shillings, or about $8. Double that to have someone hacked to death. The price list comes from a leading Kenyan human rights group that says some of the worst violence in the country's deadly disputed presidential election is the work of militias paid and directed by politicians. The government of President Mwai Kibaki and the opposition have traded blame for the killing and arson that followed Kibaki's victory in the Dec. 27 election that international observers say was followed by a rigged count. Some of the attacks took on an ugly ethnic twist, with other tribes turning on Kibaki's Kikuyu people. But the respected and independent Kenyan Human Rights Commission says there is more to it, and that it appears to involve politicians from both sides.

Health & Fitness

Teens and AIDS: As epidemic continues, some young victims speak up

By SUSAN LEVINE
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WASHINGTON—For nearly a quarter-century they have come to the first floor of Children's Hospital: teenagers infected through circumstances, always tragic, or through choices, admittedly bad ones. More than 30 new cases in 2007 alone, as the epidemic that is HIV and AIDS extended its reach through a second generation of adolescents.

Fears of ostracism have kept them largely silent elsewhere. As patients, however, they've been urged to talk. Not just about their pasts, but about living and dying and coping with the possibilities of both.

Encouragement was all they needed.

"Before I told anyone, I felt like I was in a box," one teen says. "I couldn't sleep. I was like, `Who can I tell?' "

"I went to school and no one wanted to learn anything," a girl recounts. "It was, `She's got AIDS, don't touch her.' "

"I believe that I am going to live a long life," another allows. "I believe I have a purpose, and the purpose is to help youth do something."

These are the voices that psychologist Maureen Lyon and physician Lawrence D'Angelo have woven into "Teenagers, HIV, and AIDS," perhaps the first text on the subject to place young people, in prose and even poetry, alongside the experts. It is a true collaboration, one that gets and gives plain-talk advice.

Most of all, says Adam Tenner, executive director of the local advocacy group Metro TeenAIDS, it is a book that helps "bear witness."

"Too many young people are frightened to talk about their own HIV, or the HIV of their friends," Tenner says. "One of our biggest obstacles to healing our communities is getting rid of the stigma."

Lyon and D'Angelo explained their rationale in the book's dedication, a tribute to the more than 400 HIV-positive patients for whom they and others on the Children's staff have cared.

"They have served as teachers to us all," the longtime clinicians wrote.

With new infections occurring with increasing frequency among 13- to 19-year-olds, thousands of adolescents across the country are receiving diagnoses every year. The shattering results must be followed by compassion and very tailored conversation, according to the book, for every aspect of HIV can be different in these cases, from the virus' progress in the body to the services available to a suffering teenager.

"Managing a life-threatening and socially stigmatized illness is emotionally difficult and challenging for adults," one of the contributing authors noted. "It is even more difficult for adolescents, who are more vulnerable and less prepared to deal with a health crisis of this magnitude, much less deal with it alone."

The book, available online and in stores, addresses the host of medical, treatment, disclosure and support issues. Beyond teens, it's aimed at health-care providers, who often don't listen well to adolescents; at school leaders, who in many systems still provide minimal education on sexually transmitted diseases; and, of course, at parents. Both Lyon and D'Angelo have comforted teens who've been kicked out of their homes after telling their families.

THE WASHINGTON POST

Physician Lawrence D'Angelo and psychiatrist Maureen Lyon, shown in Washington, are co-editors of into "Teenagers, HIV, and AIDS," perhaps the first text on the subject to place the voices of young people, in prose and even poetry, alongside the experts. "Sometimes," says Lyon, "HIV is not the biggest problem in their lives at the time we see them."

"Sometimes," Lyon said recently, remembering past heartaches, "HIV is not the biggest problem in their lives at the time we see them."

"These patients have defined for me what it means to be a good provider," D'Angelo said.

She has been at Children's since 1985, he since 1982. As Washington became an epicenter of the virus during that decade, their hospital became a major nexus for HIV and AIDS care. Its Burgess Clinic, with around 160 cases, is one of the largest such programs nationally.

Each still thinks about early cases and draws on lessons learned in caring for them. For Lyon, there was the girl whose mother had been prostituting her on the streets. For D'Angelo, there was the boy who'd received a contaminated blood transfusion during surgery. They were insightful, courageous — the boy until he died of AIDS and the girl even now. She is a rarity from those years, married and with three children of her own. None is infected.

The arc of the disease is reflected in Children's current patients. Three-fifths were born to infected mothers, a proportion that is waning because of the availability of medications to block any viral transmission during and after delivery. The remainder, both male and female, put themselves at risk through sexual behavior. And the makeup of that group is shifting: Girls have gotten smarter, and safer, whereas HIV among gay males is rising dramatically.

"There's a whole new cohort that has to be educated," Lyon acknowledged.

For Carl, a slim college sophomore from the Maryland suburbs, it's too late. He told his own story recently for the same reason Lyon and D'Angelo published the others. He'd already read the book; the teens' comments were his favorite part. "Teens should know that HIV is real," he said, and he believes hearing from those who know firsthand is the best way, maybe the only way, the message can have real impact.

Like many adolescents who are positive, he never thought it would happen to him. Carl wasn't that knowledgeable about the virus, but he admits to knowing that his sexual hookups could be dangerous. He put off an HIV test for a couple of years. His ignorance kept his fears at bay. Then he got sick during his senior year of high school and no longer could avoid them. He was 17.

He was at Children's when the doctor gave him and his mother the news. It was Jan. 13, 2006 — Friday the 13th, he said with a small laugh, "what a horrible day to find out." What made it worse: "My mom was just as ignorant on the subject as I was. So when we got home, it was a circus. ... She made me eat off of paper plates, eat from paper products." For several months, she ordered him to bleach the tub after he bathed. His clothes were washed separately from his siblings'.

It took Carl more than a year to come to terms with his status: "I used to have pity parties for myself. You know, that was the hardest part. I would have a weekly pity party, where I would go and I would sob and it would be sob, play the blame game, feel sorry for myself."

Finally, he asked himself, " `Am I gonna let HIV define who I am as a person?' And I said to myself, `No, no, I'm not.' " He's been helped by generally good health and the support of a sibling and a few close friends. "I've really become one with who I am," Carl said. "I've embraced being HIV-positive."

His words linger. As do those of the young people speaking from the pages of the book. D'Angelo and Lyon quoted them anonymously to protect their privacy, though the poets among them — former pediatric HIV patients at the National Institutes of Health — have names attached.

Man in anti-smoking ads still smokes

NEW YORK (AP)—He's the poster boy for the state's new anti-smoking campaign. But 48-year-old Skip Legault is still smoking—despite an amputated leg, two heart attacks and a stroke. The state Department of Health confirmed Friday that they chose a smoker for the ads, saying it helps underscore the risks associated with nicotine addiction.

In the ad, Legault, looking into the camera and supporting himself on crutches, recites a litany of health woes, including a first heart attack at age 28 and another at 29, then says: "Every bit of this is from smoking."

Dr. Richard F. Daines, the state health commissioner, defended the campaign, which began running on television, in newspapers and on the Internet in November and ends Jan. 22.

"Here's someone who's willing to step forward and show his weaknesses in public," Daines said. "I think it took a lot of courage."

A message left for Legault on his home phone was not immediately returned.

But in an interview with the *Daily News*, which first reported the story, he said, "I don't tell anyone to quit smoking. I tell people the effects smoking does to me and people I've been in contact with."

Legault, who once smoked three packs a day but has cut back to half a pack, was paid $4,000 for his time in producing the ads, the health department said.

Daines said the fact that Legault hasn't been able to kick the habit "demonstrates how extreme this addiction can get."

"Smoking is still the single most reversible, avoidable cause of premature vascular disease," he said. "High blood pressure typically takes lifetime treatment. For smoking, you just have to stop smoking and the risks decline."

AP

This photo provided by the New York State Department of Health on Friday, Jan. 11, 2008, shows an ad for the state's anti-smoking campaign featuring Skip Legault, a lifetime smoker who has suffered an amputated leg, two heart attacks and a stroke.

Life & Style

Cars the real stars of GM Style event

DETROIT (AP)—Adam Levine, lead singer of Maroon 5, summed up the reason his hit-making pop group agreed to appear at the GM Style event Saturday night: "They said: `There will be hot girls and cars,' and we said `Yes!'"

Equal parts automotive exhibition, fashion show and concert, GM Style was unlike most runway events.

Maroon 5 were joined on the bill by Grammy-winning R&B songstress Mary J. Blige and rock-rapper and local hero Kid Rock, but the cars were the stars of this show.

While the performers did their thing, General Motors Corp. was giving the stylish set a first look at its Chevrolet E85 Hot Rod and Camaro convertible concepts as well as 17 other offerings.

GM Style was held in a football field-size, climate-controlled pavilion on the Detroit River, just east of GM's global headquarters. It came on the eve of the opening of the North American International Auto Show's press preview days.

AP

Recording artist Kid Rock performs at GM Style event Saturday, Jan. 12, 2008 in Detroit.

Blige, who celebrated her 37th birthday a day earlier with a surprise dinner with her father at a Detroit restaurant, strolled into the interview area ahead of the event in an ensemble that included knee-high Alexander McQueen boots.

"I've seen the cars, and they are off the chain," Blige said of the evening's vehicle lineup.

Rock, born Robert Ritchie in nearby Romeo, Mich., was similarly impressed with GM's vehicle collection. He owns a 1962 Impala among other vintage autos, but said his everyday vehicle is a Cadillac Escalade.

Rock wore a sweatshirt with "Detroit" emblazoned on the front "so I can remember where I'm at."

His Made in Detroit fashion line was shown at GM style, as were looks by Marciano, Kevan Hall and the William Rast Denim Collection by Justin Timberlake.

AP

Maroon 5 performs at GM Style event Saturday, Jan. 12, 2008 in Detroit.

GM executives mingled during the pre-show period with the likes of NASCAR driver Jeff Gordon, retired NFL star running back Jerome Bettis and actor and singer Nick Cannon in a cramped cocktail area.

Hundreds of people dressed in casual chic sipped mixed drinks and munched finger food as an oversized clock counted down to the beginning of the night's festivities.

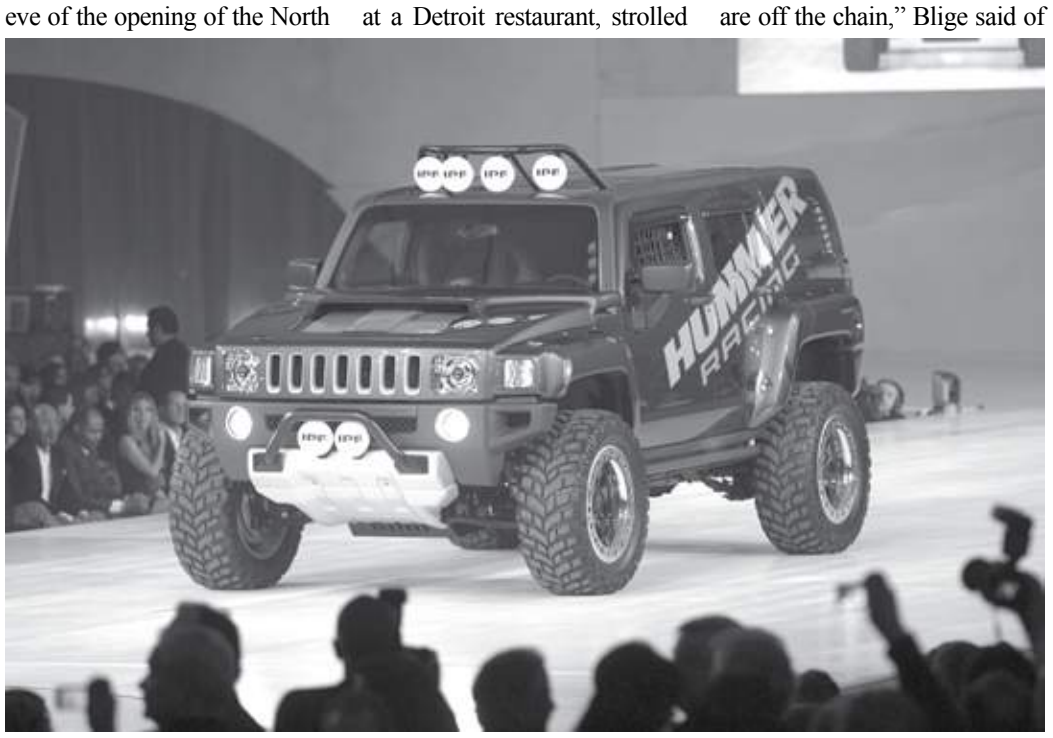
GM Style kicked off with Blige walking purposefully the length of the runway all the while belting out her new hit "Just Fine." When she reached the end of the runway, she waved hello to those in the front row - GM CEO Rick Wagoner and Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick, among others.

Following closely behind Blige was a vintage 1953 Chevrolet Corvette and six leggy models sporting the latest from Marciano.

Blige gave the crowd two more songs, and male models sporting hip-hop mogul Russell Simmons Argyle Culture collection made their way down the catwalk. Simmons himself appeared at the end of Blige's set to slap hands with his models and receive a warm ovation from the crowd.

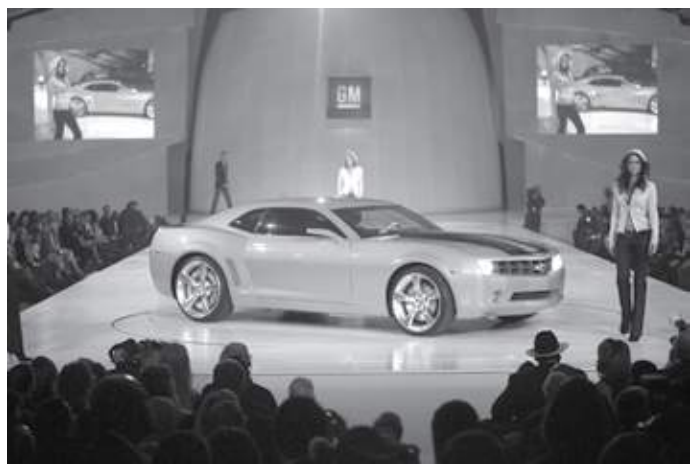
As the opening guitar riff of Maroon 5's set began, six sunglasses-wearing models dressed in Mark Zunino assembled before Levine and the band, then headed down the runway followed closely behind by a shiny Saturn Astra Tuner concept.

In most fashion shows, the designer ends the show by walking down the runway to applause, and GM Style was no different—in this case Ed Welburn, GM's vice president of design.



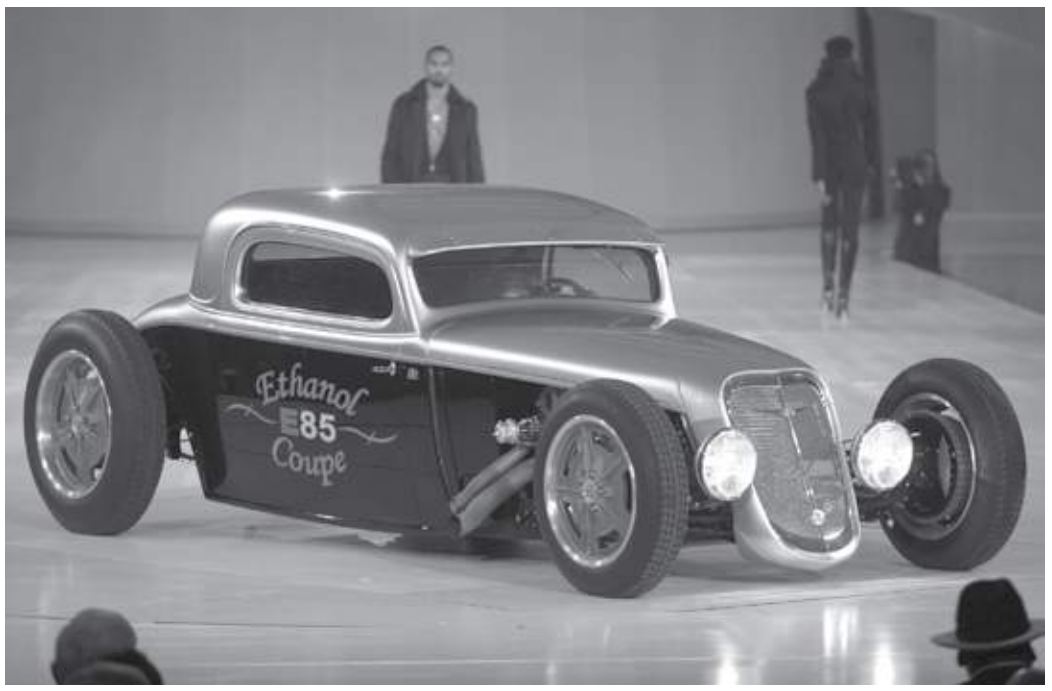
AP

Hummer H3R concept is introduced at GM Style event Saturday, Jan. 12, 2008 in Detroit.



AP

Chevrolet Camaro Bumblebee is introduced at GM Style event Saturday, Jan. 12, 2008 in Detroit.



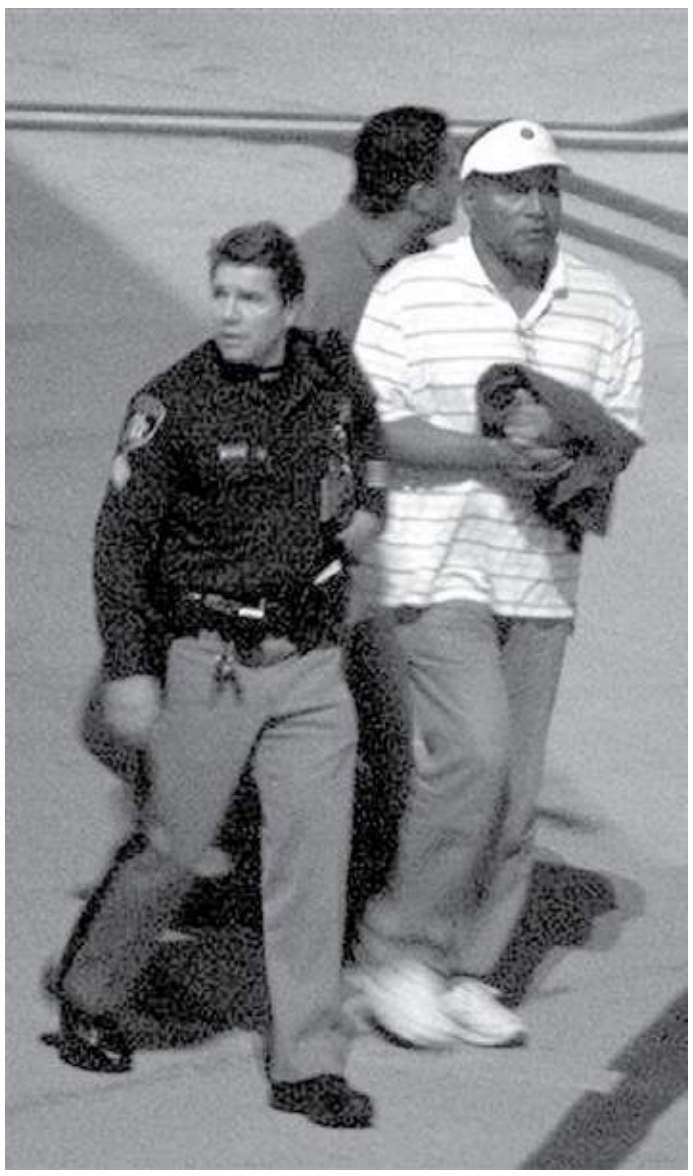
AP

Chevrolet E85 Hot Rod concept is introduced at GM Style event Saturday, Jan. 12, 2008 in Detroit.

AP

Pontiac Solstice SD-290 concept is introduced at GM Style event Saturday, Jan. 12, 2008 in Detroit.

OJ Simpson jailed on bail violation



AP

O.J. Simpson, right, is transferred to the he Clark County jail after he arrived at McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas, Friday, Jan. 11, 2008.

LAS VEGAS (AP)—O.J. Simpson was in jail Saturday, accused of violating terms of his bail in an armed robbery case, after a bondsman told authorities the former football star tried to get him to pass a message to a co-defendant.

Simpson was awaiting a Wednesday court hearing, when prosecutors planned to request that Simpson's bail be revoked and he be kept in jail until trial, set for April.

The 60-year-old arrived in Las Vegas on Friday on a commercial flight from Florida with his bail bondsman, Miguel Pereira. He was taken in handcuffs by a police escort to the Clark County Detention Center.

Pereira said he was unhappy because he had not been paid for handling Simpson's bail, and that he gave prosecutors a message Simpson wanted him to take to a co-defendant because he didn't want to face criminal charges.

"He left a message instructing me to do something violating a court order," the bondsman told The Associated Press after escorting Simpson from his home in Miami. "I don't want to get involved in such a dilemma or a criminal act."

Simpson's attorney denied the allegations.

"O.J. did not try to persuade anybody to contact a witness," Yale Galanter told The Associated Press.

A prosecutor claims in documents filed Friday in Clark County District Court that the tape-recorded message they say Simpson left for Pereira on Nov. 16 was an effort to contact co-defendant Clarence "C.J." Stewart, which violated a court order.

"I just want, want C.J. to know that ... I'm tired of this (expletive)," Simpson is quoted as saying in the documents. "Fed up with (expletives) changing what they told me. All right?"

Pereira confirmed that Simpson left the message, in which he expressed frustration at testimony during a three-day preliminary hearing in November.

Stewart's lawyer, Jose Pallares, said he had no knowledge that Simpson's message ever got to Stewart.

Pereira said he turned over the message to prosecutors after learning that someone else knew about it.

"He said he was going to send it to the D.A.'s office and have me criminally charged," Pereira said.

Simpson had been instructed by Las Vegas Justice of the Peace Joe M. Bonaventure in September not to have any contact with anyone involved in the case—not even by "carrier pigeon."

He was freed Sept. 19 on $125,000 bail following his arrest on allegations he and several friends burst into a Las Vegas hotel room and robbed two sports memorabilia dealers at gunpoint.

Simpson has maintained that he was retrieving items that belonged to him. He, Stewart and Charles Ehrlich are scheduled to stand trial April 7 on 12 charges.

Roger's motion alleges Simpson "committed new crimes," without elaborating. Dan Kulin, a spokesman for Roger, declined to say whether new charges would be filed against Simpson.

Galanter said he believed the "new crimes" referred to allegations of witness tampering. He called Pereira a member of Simpson's defense team, and said he was "totally miffed" by the effort to use a tape of a permissible phone call to try to revoke Simpson's bail.

"He was clearly voicing frustration to a member of the defense team who had been providing security, transportation and investigation services," Galanter said.

Pereira said he provided security and transportation, and that Simpson stayed at his home during the preliminary hearing. But he said he and his business, You Ring We Spring bail bonds in North Las Vegas, were not part of Simpson's legal team.

"I'm a separate entity," he said. "Whenever they go into their attorney-client thing, I step out of the room. I'm not an investigator, nor am I hired or paid by their defense team."

Pereira said he was upset that Simpson never paid him the $18,750 he was due for posting Simpson's bail.

"I'm in the bag for plane tickets, car rental down in Florida, even the $40 filing fee at the jail," he said.

Simpson, Stewart and Ehrlich each pleaded not guilty Nov. 28 to kidnapping, armed robbery, assault with a deadly weapon, burglary, coercion and conspiracy charges. A kidnapping conviction could bring a life sentence with the possibility of parole. An armed robbery conviction carries mandatory prison time.

Three other former co-defendants, Walter Alexander, Michael McClinton and Charles Cashmore, agreed to plea deals and testified against Simpson at the evidentiary hearing.

Simpson has maintained that no guns were displayed during the confrontation, that he never asked anyone to bring guns and that he did not know anyone had guns. He has said he intended only to retrieve items that had been stolen from him by a former agent, including the suit he wore the day he was acquitted of murder in 1995 in the slayings of his wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend, Ronald Goldman.

In Loving Memory Of
a Beautiful and Gracious Daughter

Catricia Jawn Fernandez Cepeda

Fondly known as "CJ" or "Sage"
December 27, 1990 ~ January 8, 2008

Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her:

Parents:
John Patrick Villagomez Cepeda and
Cande Mercedes Fernandez Cepeda

Brothers:
Shawn Patrick, Zohn Manet, and Ian Edwin

Paternal Grandparents:
Juan B. and Patricia V. Cepeda

Maternal Grandparent:
Kathleen Veenstra

Great Grandparents:
Paulina B. Cepeda
Manuel S. Villagomez

Uncles/Aunts:
Chris & Dee Cepeda (David, Patti, Chris Jr.), LA
James & Cheryl Cepeda (Becca), KY
Paulina Cepeda & Eldrid Shai (Noelani), SPN
Stephen Fernandez, TX
Roque & Alice Fernandez (Warren, Brandon, Chanelle), AZ

In her new life, she joins:
Her Grandfather:
†Ignacio Q. Fernandez

Her Great-Grandparents:
†Joaquin D. Cepeda
†Luise P. Villagomez
†Mercedes Q. Fernandez
†Roque Q. Fernandez
†Edwin Stringfield
†Doris Stringfield (step)
†Josephine Kilmeyer

Catricia will be missed by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, and nephews.

Daily mass is being offered at Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 6:00 a.m. Nightly rosary is being prayed at the Villagomez Family Santa Cruz Chapel in Fina Sisu at 7:00 p.m.
The details of her Mass of Christian Burial will follow.

Please join us in prayers.
Thank You and *Si Yu'us Ma'ase*
John and Cande Cepeda and Family

Filmmakers face book-to-screen challenge

LOS ANGELES (AP)—David Benioff was sitting on a plane, having a perfectly pleasant conversation with an elderly passenger about his job as a screenwriter, when he mentioned that he was working on an adaptation of "The Kite Runner."

"She grabbed my arm and said, `That's my favorite novel. Don't change a word!'"

Based on the international best-seller about a man who returns to Afghanistan to right a childhood wrong, "The Kite Runner" is one of an inordinately large number of films in this year's awards race that come from books.

Screenwriters like Benioff are acutely aware of the inevitable comparisons between book and movie, and face the daunting challenge of telling a cinematic story that will resonate with audiences while remaining somewhat true to the source material.

Sure, every year there are several book-club favorites that turn up at the multiplex. Perusing the list of Academy Award best-picture winners can feel like a trip to Barnes & Noble, from "Gone With the Wind" and "The Godfather" to "The Silence of the Lambs" and "The English Patient."

But during this tumultuous, strike-hobbled awards season, at least a dozen movies with literary roots have real shots at winning the biggest prizes. Some of those novels, like Khaled Hosseini's "The Kite Runner," are beloved and readers feel proprietary about them. Others, like Ian McEwan's "Atonement" and Jean-Dominique Bauby's memoir "The Diving Bell and the Butterfly," seemed impossible to adapt because they were too complicated, too internal.

The adaptations themselves range from the Coen brothers' "No Country for Old Men," which maintained much of Cormac McCarthy's rich Texas vernacular, to Paul Thomas Anderson's "There Will Be Blood," in which the writer-director merely used Upton Sinclair's "Oil!" as a leaping-off point. Still others come from novellas ("Lust, Caution"), graphic novels ("Persepolis") or are based on non-fiction works ("Charlie Wilson's War," "Into the Wild," "A Mighty Heart").

Benioff was lucky in that he'd read "The Kite Runner" before he got the job, and he'd started his screenplay before the book became a huge hit. Halfway through his first draft, though, he began to feel the pressure.

"It's an amazingly emotional story. People become attached to those characters and they really long for redemption for Amir, for him to make up for what he has done, to heal those wounds," he said.

AP

This undated photo provided by Focus Features shows Keira Knightley, left, and James McAvoy during a scene from "Atonement."

As a novelist himself, having written "25th Hour" and adapted the screenplay for director Spike Lee, Benioff said he "felt an extra layer of pressure—I didn't want to let Khaled down. I liked him a lot and respected him a lot and he was a real ally. ... When it's your own book, you want the movie to be good but there's less pressure."

Veteran Ronald Harwood already has an Oscar for adapting 2002's "The Pianist," but still found himself pacing his Paris flat for weeks, trying to figure a way into "The Diving Bell and the Butterfly." The late author, Bauby, was the editor of French Elle who suffered a paralyzing stroke at 43 and used his left eyelid to blink out what he wanted to say, letter by letter. Harwood tried to blink the alphabet to get into Bauby's head and it drove him mad.

Finally, it occurred to him to begin from Bauby's woozy, obscured perspective in the hospital room.

"That was my breakthrough," said Harwood, whose script is up for a Golden Globe and who has a new book of his own on the subject, "Ronald Harwood's Adaptations: From Other Works Into Films." "I thought, `This is the story I could tell—the story of his illness.' And the camera did the blinking—that was my idea, because it did two things: It gives the audience the sense of what it's like to have locked-in syndrome, and the second thing it did was that they didn't have to look at him for two hours, which would have been dreadful."

Christopher Hampton read "Atonement," a sweeping drama about a young girl's damaging lie, while on vacation and found it so obviously cinematic, he couldn't wait to dash home, pick up the phone and call someone about writing the script. The movie has a leading seven Globe nominations, including best screenplay.

"I didn't know it would turn out to be far harder than I thought it was going to be," said Hampton, who won an Oscar for 1988's "Dangerous Liaisons." "It was a long, long process with many, many drafts."

Adapting "Atonement" was daunting because it's about a writer and much of it takes place within the characters' interiors. Hampton initially had written in voiceover and a framing device—none of which exists in the finished version, which is closer to the book's structure.

"The most effective way is the simplest," he found. "Show it from the young girl's perspective, then loop back and show what really happened. It's so simple. I can't tell you how many different ways we approached it."

It helped to have a rapport with author McEwan, who chose Hampton himself and got an executive-producer credit.

"The relationship between the adapter and the adaptee, if there is such a word, is very delicate, because you're taking his child and educating it and changing it in your own way," Hampton said. "Fortunately, Ian is very experienced in the sense that he's had a lot of his books turned into movies and even done one or two himself. So he knows what the score is."

McEwan said he realizes the process of adaptation is "a kind of demolition job."

"You've got to boil down 130,000 words to a screenplay containing 20,000 words," the author said in the "Atonement" production notes.

Aaron Stockard, meanwhile, was terrified to meet author Dennis Lehane while adapting "Gone Baby Gone," his first produced screenplay, with director and longtime friend Ben Affleck. The crime drama comes from one of Lehane's books about a pair of private eyes in a rough part of Boston, and has made an awards front-runner of supporting actress Amy Ryan as a junkie mom.

"When he came on set for the first few times I intentionally avoided him. I felt like (he must have thought), `What in the world is this kid doing taking this story I wrote, with characters I've written six books about, and making these changes?'" Stockard said of Lehane, who also wrote "Mystic River." "But I kind of kept reminding myself, this needs to stand on its own. And I can't do it to please him and I can't do it to please fans of the book."

In determining what to cut and what to keep, "Lust, Caution" co-writer James Schamus says the key is to remember always that you're making a movie. Based on a short story about passion and betrayal by revered Chinese writer Eileen Chang, the film is a Globe nominee in the foreign language category.

"You have to keep that in mind—not that you are in some way responsible to or beholden to the underlying work," said Schamus, the Focus Features chief who's also adapted "The Ice Storm," "Ride With the Devil" and "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" for his longtime friend, director Ang Lee. "The primary task is to make sure the movie is good, not to make sure you're faithful to any part of the underlying work. That doesn't mean you're disrespectful—far from it."

Anderson only used about the first 100 pages of "Oil!" for "There Will Be Blood," the story of a volatile oilman which has Globe nominations for best picture and actor Daniel Day-Lewis. Still, that was a huge departure for the maker of the original ensemble pieces "Boogie Nights" and "Magnolia."

"The benefits of the adaptation was that it helped me do things that my natural instincts wouldn't lead me to do," Anderson said in a recent Associated Press story, acknowledging his inclination to "spin off the rails a bit more."

"It was like collaborating with somebody," he added.

John Orloff did have a collaborator in Mariane Pearl while adapting her memoir "A Mighty Heart: The Brave Life and Death of My Husband, Danny Pearl," about the murder of her journalist husband. (Angelina Jolie is up for a Globe for her starring performance; Orloff's script has earned him a Spirit Award nomination.) But he also went beyond her book to interview the people who investigated Pearl's death and present a fuller picture.

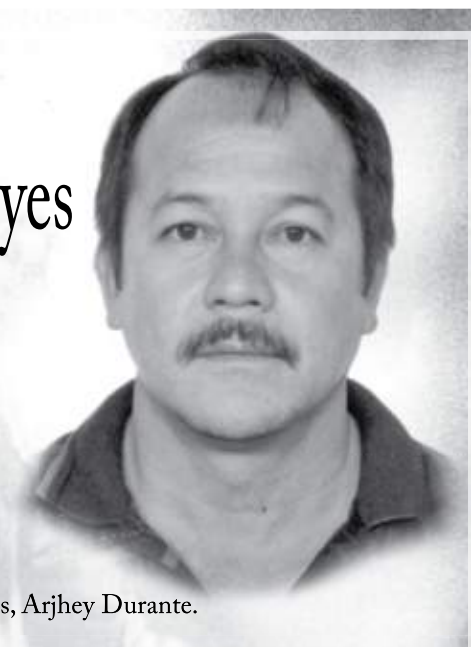
"I talked to Mariane constantly. It was both intimidating and really helpful," Orloff said. "Mariane, in person, is this incredibly open, giving partner in all this who wanted nothing more than having her story be told in the most accurate, dramatic way possible. That said, as a writer, I had this incredible—and I think everyone who had anything to do with the film—had this incredible onus and responsibility to get it right, and to make her feel we got it right.

"One reason I fell in love with `A Mighty Heart' was because I didn't have to make stuff up," he added. "I didn't have to make changes. I didn't have to—quote unquote—be inspired by a true story."

In Loving Memory

Manuel Santos Reyes

June 21, 1956 — January 07, 2008



In his new life, Manuel now joins his:
Father Esteban A. Reyes,
Mother Carmen S. Reyes,
Sister Maria Elisa Reyes Camacho,
Bother William Reyes.

He will be remembered in the hearts of his:
Wife: Adora R. Reyes
Children: Mark Steven Reyes, Darrell Reyes, Arjhey Durante.

Mather-In Law: Belen Regodon

Brothers & Sisters & In Laws:
Maria Elisa (deceased) Pedro Camacho & Children (Jeannette), Raymond/Maria Reyes & Children, David/Dolores Reyes & Children, Juan/Florentina Reyes & Children, Edward/Judy Reyes & Children, Esteban Reyes & Children/Yolanda Manibusan, Florence/George Fleming & Children, Antonio/Esabella Reyes & Children, Diana/Jose Sasamoto & Children, Virginia Reyes & Children/Brian C. Tudela, Lillian Reyes & Children, Andrew Reyes, William Reyes (deceased) & Children, Richard/Haide Reyes & Children.

..And numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nephews, nieces, and friends.

Rosary is being said every evening at **7:30 p.m. at the San Roque Church**, San Roque, Saipan, **Burial** will be on **Tuesday**, the **15th of January 2008**, at the **Mt. Carmel Church**, Saipan His remains will be escorted from the Borja Funeral Service in San Jose, Saipan at 7:30 a.m. **Mass** will be at **11:00 a.m.** followed by burial at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Please join us in prayers,
The Family

Directors, studios begin labor talks

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The union representing Hollywood directors began contract talks Saturday, with striking TV and film writers calculating how a deal might affect them.

A quick resolution with directors could undercut the writers' bargaining power by serving as an industry template for the central issue of new media compensation, observers said.

The Writers Guild of America and the Screen Actors Guild issued a joint statement Friday saying they hoped directors reach a fair deal that "incorporates principles that will benefit all creative artists."

"The DGA has to do what is best for its membership, but it is important to remember that they do not represent actors and writers," the statement said.

An e-mail from DGA president Michael Apted to guild members added to speculation that a speedy resolution with the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers could be in the works.

"We would not enter negotiations with the AMPTP unless we were within shouting distance of an agreement on our two most important issues: jurisdiction for our members to work in new media and appropriate compensation for the reuse of our work on the Internet and other new media platforms," Apted wrote in the e-mail.

Both sides in the 2-month-old writers strike have said the central issue is compensation for programs, movies and other content streamed or downloaded over the Internet.

That issue also could dominate studio negotiations with directors and the Screen Actors Guild. The contracts of both those unions expire in June.

AP

Harvey Weinstein arrives at a dinner to celebrate Time 100, Time Magazine's list of the 100 most influential people in the world in this May 8, 2006 file photo in New York.

The directors guild has spent nearly $2 million to research new media issues and the potential revenue from digital distribution through the next decade. Studios have said it's premature to put a value on emerging new media.

The directors union had said late last year that it would delay the start of talks to give writers a chance to come to an agreement with studios.

But directors, known for conducting early and efficient talks, clearly lost patience after negotiations between the writers and studios broke off Dec. 7 and the strike dragged on.

Directors have only gone on strike once. That walkout in 1987 lasted just five minutes on the West Coast, and because of the time difference, three hours and five minutes in the East.

The directors union and the producers group announced the start of this year's talks Friday in a brief joint statement. No further details were released. Both sides said they would have no further comment.

The directors' chief negotiator, Gil Cates, said a media blackout would be in place during negotiations.

The start of talks between directors and studios was lauded by the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, the guild that represents 50,000-plus TV and movie stagecraft workers who have been affected by the writers strike.

"I hope that the DGA and the AMPTP can reach an agreement that puts us all on the road to getting back to work," stage employees guild president Thomas C. Short said in a statement.

Meanwhile, independent film company The Weinstein Co. and the guild reached a deal Friday that would allow writers to return to work on the production company's movie projects.

In a joint statement with the guild, co-chairmen Bob and Harvey Weinstein said, "We believe this strike must be resolved now, it's that simple."

Details of the deal were not disclosed, though it was believed to be similar to the one signed by Worldwide Pants to allow David Letterman's show to return with union writers.

ABC Studios, however, announced Friday that it had killed deals with nearly two dozen writers and non-writing producers who don't have active projects. They include people who worked on the hit shows "Scrubs," "Curb Your Enthusiasm" and "That '70s Show."

Globes show canceled, but not the swag

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Despite the Golden Globe Awards being reduced from a swanky dinner party to a no-frills news conference because of the writers' strike, gift suites remain in full swag. At least five freebie-filled events beckoned nominees Friday.

And since the show is off, vendors hoped their wares—which included jewelry, evening gowns and climate-controlled pet carriers—might take center stage. A few wondered if gifting was appropriate this year, but most decided stars need their swag.

"Even though there's a writers' strike, it doesn't mean that we shouldn't be honoring actors for their accomplishments throughout the year," said Gavin Keilly, who organized a gift suite in Beverly Hills. He's donating a portion of its proceeds to the Writers Guild Foundation, he said.

Still, a few of his usual vendors canceled.

"They didn't feel comfortable because of the strike," he said. "They didn't think people would come."

Under threat of union picketing and a boycott by nominated actors, Sunday's Golden Globes switched from a live ceremony filled with stars to a news conference at which winners simply will be announced.

But gift spots were bustling as though there was a big event around the corner.

"We were afraid no one was going to show up ... and we almost backed out, but it really paid off," said Cindy Lott, who was touting Xtreme Lashes eyelash extensions at another event in Beverly Hills. "There were more RSVPs because people aren't at their stylists."

"I knew the actors would still be supporting the gifting," said Susan Setz, who was showing her Wild Rose Tattoo Shirts at a gift suite in Brentwood, a neighborhood known for its high celeb quotient. "I looked at it as a wonderful opportunity."

Besides, stars might have extra time on their hands since they're not preparing for the show—and many aren't working because of the strike.

They might also need the publicity, said Barbara Moore, who offered T-shirts and books at a Beverly Hills lounge.

Holly's widow fighting sale of book

LUBBOCK, Texas (AP)—Buddy Holly's widow is trying to keep the woman whose name was made famous by the 1950s hit song "Peggy Sue" from selling a book about her friendship with the rocker.

Maria Elena Holly says Peggy Sue Gerron's "Whatever Happened to Peggy Sue?" is unauthorized and will harm her late husband's name, her own reputation and that of her company, Holly Properties.

"It's very interesting that this woman makes up all these stories," Maria Elena Holly said Friday from her home in Dallas. "He never, never considered Peggy Sue a friend."

Gerron, who lives in Lubbock, said she and another woman wrote the 283-page book because 2008 is the 50th anniversary of the release of "Peggy Sue." Buddy Holly also recorded "Peggy Sue Got Married."

Gerron said material for the book came from about 150 diary entries she wrote during the time she knew the singer, she said.

"I wanted to give him his voice. It's my book, my memoirs," she said from Tyler, where her publishing company held a news conference Friday defending Gerron's right to pen her biography. "We were very, very good friends. He was probably one of the best friends I ever had."

Maria Elena Holly said she would sue if excerpts she's read online appear in the book, which is due in bookstores later this month.

"I don't understand why people do that, especially when she knows that people know the truth," she said.

This week, her attorney, Richard Wallace, sent a cease-and-desist letter to TogiEntertainment Inc., an Oklahoma City-based publishing house. Wallace declined to comment Friday.

Buddy Holly died Feb. 3, 1959, in a plane crash that also killed singers Ritchie Valens and J.P. "The Big Bopper" Richardson. Holly was 22.

Stepson's drug addiction may be the death of his dad

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: After 30 years as a widow, I married a wonderful, gentle, caring man. The problem is his son, "Byron." Byron is a 50-year-old druggie who doesn't work and sponges off his father by making promises he never keeps.

My husband forgives him over and over because Byron is his only son. But the fighting is going to cause my husband to have a heart attack. His son rants, screams and threatens. I have personally heard him make death threats.

I finally lost my temper and told Byron exactly how I feel. Now he is refusing to come over, refuses to help his father in any way and blames me. I know what he is doing, and it breaks my heart to see my husband in such pain.

What can I do to mend the fences? Everything I said to his son is the truth. Please guide me.

HEARTSICK IN SEATTLE

DEAR HEARTSICK: Your husband's "child" is an addict. One of the things addicts do -- and quite adeptly -- is manipulate those around them into enabling them to continue their habit. The harder a person tries to protect the addict, the more it makes the addict able to continue his/her self-destructive behavior. The reason Byron acts the way he does is because it has always worked.

Believe it or not, your husband needs help right now as much as -- or more than -- his son does. An excellent place to find it would be the Nar-Anon Family Groups, a support group founded in 1967 that offers insight and support to families and friends of addicts. It provides a safe place for members to share their experience, hope and strength with each other. To locate a group in your area, call toll-free (800) 477-6291 or visit its Web site at www.Nar-Anon.org.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am 44, a newly single mother of three young children. Two years ago I discovered that my husband had been leading a double life -- including lying, cheating, stealing and substance abuse. One of his affairs was with my favorite cousin, "Charlotte." I had always looked up to her. The news was devastating.

Equally devastating is the reaction of my family. They consider Charlotte to be a "victim" of my former husband. They say I should get over it and move on. They want to invite her to family functions, including my youngest sister's wedding, in which my children and I have been asked to participate.

Since the affair, Charlotte has continued to be an alcoholic. She has never attempted to apologize appropriately. Once she did, but she was drunk and refused to take responsibility for her actions. Out of respect for my feelings, I think Charlotte should be excluded from the wedding. If she is invited, I'm not sure my children and I will attend. What do you think?

OUTRAGED IN SAN FRANCISCO

DEAR OUTRAGED: You should thank your higher power that you're rid of the substance-abusing, morally challenged philanderer you married. He had the affair with Charlotte because she was handy, vulnerable and addled by alcohol. She has tried to apologize, but because she was drunk couldn't get her message across. Does this absolve her? No! But until Charlotte sobers up, expecting an "appropriate" apology is as unrealistic as asking someone with a broken leg to tap-dance.

Take part in the wedding and allow yourself to have a good time. Stop nursing your anger for Charlotte and direct it where it belongs -- at your ex. Do this if not for yourself, then in the name of family unity. No woman is an island, and with your current mind-set, you're only isolating yourself.

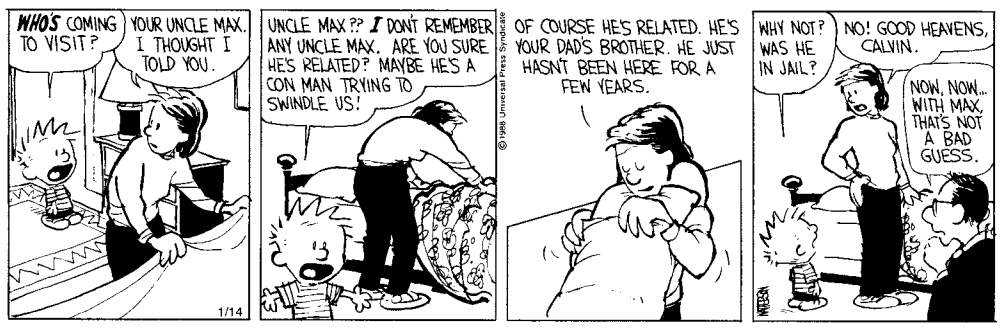
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


WHO'S COMING TO VISIT?
YOUR UNCLE MAX. I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU.
UNCLE MAX?? I DON'T REMEMBER ANY UNCLE MAX. ARE YOU SURE HE'S RELATED? MAYBE HE'S A CON MAN TRYING TO SWINDLE US!
© 1988 Universal Press Syndicate
OF COURSE HE'S RELATED. HE'S YOUR DAD'S BROTHER. HE JUST HASN'T BEEN HERE FOR A FEW YEARS.
WHY NOT? WAS HE IN JAIL?
NO! GOOD HEAVENS, CALVIN.
NOW, NOW... WITH MAX, THAT'S NOT A BAD GUESS.
1/14

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

OUT OF MY WAY, FAT BOY!
JIM DAVIS 1-14
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THUD
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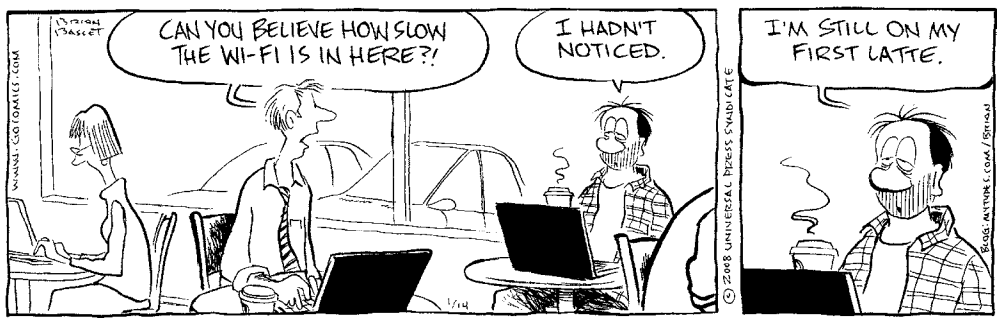
DID YOU JUST WALK INTO MY MIRROR?
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT
Text GARFIELD to 28642 US ONLY

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

WHAT'S FOR BREAKFAST?
CHOCO-CHIP COOKIE CHOMPS.
SOUNDS HEALTHY.
IT'S THE BREAKFAST OF CHAMPIONS!
2008 © Glenn McCoy/Dist. by Universal Press Syndicate
YOU'RE JOKING.
NO. SEE? HERE ON THE BOX IS A PICTURE OF THE WORLD CHAMPION SUMO WRESTLER.
www.gocomics.com

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Diamond Head locale
5 Last year's jrs.
8 — and crafts
12 Carriage
13 Spicy
14 Scott who played Chachi
15 Dutch cheese
16 Tartness of tone
18 Jellied gasoline
20 Props for Ferrante and Teicher
21 Letter opener?
23 Seventy-five XVIs
24 Big prizes in Vegas
28 Part of MYOB
31 Gold, in Guadalajara
32 Rocky debris
34 Simile center
35 Chow
37 Jamaica's capital
39 Upper surface
41 Chief god of ancient Memphis
42 Religious retreat
45 Paragons
49 Hive boss
51 Met melody
52 Bear, to astronomers
53 Raggedy —
54 Campsite shelter
55 P.M. periods
56 Prepared
57 Loathe

DOWN
1 Portent
2 Verdi opera
3 Pile
4 Reveal one's identity
5 Irish clover
6 Sinbad's bird
7 Dance lesson
8 Monastery office
9 Mackintosh
10 One of the Jackson 5
11 Tofu sources
17 Edge
19 They may get glossed over
22 Disrobe
24 Trot
25 Timetable abbr.
26 Most sophisticated
27 Aware
29 GIs' entertainment grp.
30 Scooted
33 "Zounds!"
36 North wind
38 Scabbard
40 Skillet
42 Blue shade
43 Go from Web site to Web site
44 Biz degrees (Abbr.)
46 Vicinity
47 Fluff on clothing
48 Fully fill
50 Away from WSW

Solution time: 24 mins.

■	A	C	R	E	S	■	S	L	O	G	A	N
A	G	H	A	S	T	■	P	I	E	R	R	E
S	I	E	S	T	A	■	E	N	R	A	G	E
P	O	N	T	■	N	E	C	K	■	T	O	D
■	■	■	■	A	I	D	A	■	S	H	E	■
O	V	A	■	W	O	R	F	■	A	F	A	R
H	E	A	D	O	F	L	E	T	T	U	C	E
O	G	R	E	■	F	I	N	E	■	L	E	D
■	■	■	D	N	A	■	E	G	A	D	■	■
L	E	V	■	B	A	R	S	■	A	F	R	O
A	V	A	T	A	R	■	H	A	L	O	E	D
M	E	R	E	S	T	■	U	N	L	O	A	D
A	N	K	L	E	S	■	I	D	Y	L	L	■

Saturday's answer 1-14

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				■	13			■	14			
15				■	16			17				
18				19		■	20					
■	■	■	21			22	■	23			■	■
24	25	26					27	■	28		29	30
31			■	32				33	■	34		
35			36	■	37				38			
■	■	39		40	■	41				■	■	■
42	43				44	■	45			46	47	48
49						50		■	51			
52				■	53				54			
55				■	56				57			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jason Bateman, 39; Emily Watson, 41; Faye Dunaway, 67; Andy Rooney, 89

Happy Birthday: You will have plenty on your mind and lots to do this year. Follow your dreams and don't let love relationships stop you from completing your plans. You may be smitten by someone but that doesn't mean that you give in and neglect what you've worked so hard to accomplish. Your numbers are 6, 15, 28, 36, 42, 44

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You'll be over the top when it comes to emotional matters. Try to control your response to anything happening at work or with colleagues. Put your energy, time and effort into self-improvement and personal relationships. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Take your time and listen carefully. You may misinterpret what you are being told if you take what's said too literally. Keep your thoughts to yourself and your ideas a secret until you have everything figured out. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You'll be in top shape when it comes to selling your ideas or convincing others to follow you. It's a great time to talk but not the best to spend, loan or borrow cash. Do what you can with what you've got. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You won't take things lightly today. You will overreact at the first sign of opposition. Someone is likely to catch you off-guard and this will lead to a battle you weren't anticipating. Think before you take action. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You have all sorts of great ideas to share and just the right people to share them with. Travel, conferences or meetings that will allow you to discuss your plans must be part of your day. You can excel if you are aggressive. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You may feel vulnerable if you leave yourself open for criticism. Someone may try to trick you into doing something you normally wouldn't do. Be sure to ask questions and do what's best for yourself. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Take time to do the things you enjoy most. If you satisfy your own needs today, it will help you make decisions regarding other areas of your life. The happier you are with your life, the more productive you will become. 3 stars

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You can make a deal and advance. Take advantage of an offer or opportunity that develops. Don't worry so much about changing your mind—it will show that you can be flexible and approachable. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): A chance to make a few emotional changes at home will help make your relationships with the people you love better. It's time to consider taking a vacation or at least a break from your everyday routine. Use your imagination. ✪✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Tidy up loose ends so you can relax and enjoy a little romance late in the day. If you don't, you may face personal problems that will escalate. All work and no play will lead to a very lonely Goat. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Do your very best and success will come knocking on your door. Love is on the rise and mixing business with pleasure will certainly work to your advantage. Put a little flair into your work and someone will recognize your talent. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Take the path that can bring you the highest return professionally but not necessarily be the shortest route to success. It's the hard work you are willing to put in and the knowledge you will pick up along the way that will help you pass your current expectations. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are inquisitive, inventive and intuitive. You are a doer always eager to try anything new. You welcome a challenge for the entertainment it provides.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

7		3		9	6	1		
1			7		5			3
6		5			8			4
		6			4		3	
		1		7		5		
	7		5			8		
5			6			9		8
8			9		2			7
		9	8	1		4		6

Difficulty Level ★ 1/14

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

5	7	8	9	4	1	3	2	6
4	9	6	2	5	3	7	8	1
2	1	3	6	8	7	5	9	4
9	8	5	7	3	4	6	1	2
7	6	4	1	9	2	8	3	5
3	2	1	8	6	5	4	7	9
6	3	7	5	1	9	2	4	8
8	4	9	3	2	6	1	5	7
1	5	2	4	7	8	9	6	3

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 1/12

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

NIAGARA FALLS, CANADA **Solution: 8 letters**

S	O	E	V	E	N	T	S	Y	S	B	N	G	P	S
G	N	I	D	D	E	W	T	L	U	W	O	R	S	R
E	I	O	K	A	I	I	A	S	O	S	T	O	D	O
N	S	L	I	N	C	V	E	T	R	H	G	W	R	T
I	A	O	T	T	I	S	N	O	E	N	O	T	A	I
W	C	E	U	T	C	W	A	L	W	R	L	H	O	S
S	R	R	S	V	O	A	I	C	O	C	F	P	B	I
H	R	E	U	D	E	C	R	S	P	I	S	A	L	V
U	F	U	H	I	O	N	T	T	R	S	P	R	L	Y
T	R	S	O	P	S	H	I	E	T	D	O	K	I	L
T	E	R	T	(T)	G	E	W	R	A	A	H	S	B	I
L	D	E	E	I	(S)	O	S	R	S	O	S	P	A	M
E	R	W	L	B	R	(I)	D	G	E	R	I	D	E	A
S	O	O	S	K	C	O	(M)	M	U	N	I	T	Y	F
D	B	T	S	E	P	A	R	G	A	R	D	E	N	S

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Attractions, Billboards, Border, Bridge, Buses, Cascade, Casino, City, Community, Cruises, Downtown, Events, Family, Festivals, Fireworks, Gardens, Golf, Grapes, Growth, Helicopter, Hotels, Lights, Maps, Mist, Neon, Parks, Power, Ride, Roads, Shops, Shuttles, Souvenirs, Tours, Towers, Visitors, Walk, Waterfall, Wedding, Wine, Winter

Last Saturday's Answer: Heroes

To order THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 15, 22, 23, 24, 25 or 26, send $5.95 each (US funds only) payable to Universal Press Syndicate plus $3 postage for the first book order, $1 p&h for each additional book. Send to WONDERWORD, 4520 Main St., Kansas City, Mo. 64111 or call toll-free, 1-800-255-5734, ext. 6688. Order online at upuzzles.com. (Contain 43 puzzles, 9 of which are the larger, 20 x 20 size)

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Apartment room for rent: Fully furnished 1 brm, T/B, 24-hr water $210/month, near Conwood | Tel. 287-1372, 235-6748

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

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Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & worker compensation. Contact: Top Development Inc. @235-6072/5.

1 OVER HAULER (M 6156)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & worker compensation. Contact: Top Development Inc. @235-6072/5.

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1 HOUSEWORKER (M 6157)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: $100.00/housing deduction; $100.00/food deduction; medical provided & workmen compensation. Contact: Martin C. Pangelinan @234-6076.

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1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (M 6158)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self provide food; medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: Javili General Partnership dba YJC Autoshop @235-4928.

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112 SEWER, HAND (M 6159)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: Onwel Manufacturing (Saipan), Ltd. @234-9522.

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2 SUPERVISOR (M 6160)
Salary:$3.55-$4.00/hour. Benefits: Free housing; self provided food; medical provided; workers compensation coverage & free transportation to & from work place. Contact: Jaguar Company Limited @233-1545.

15 SINGER (M 6161)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Free housing; self provided food; medical provided; workers compensation coverage & free transportation to & from work place. Contact: Jaguar Company Limited @233-1545.

10 DANCER (M 6162)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Free housing; self provided food; medical provided; workers compensation coverage & free transportation to & from work place. Contact: Jaguar Company Limited @233-1545.

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2 SEWING MACHINE REPAIRER (M 6163)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self housing; self food; provided workmen's compensation & medical expenses. Contact: Yong Jia Corp. @288-3839.

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1 HOUSEWORKER (M 6164)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Charge by the employer $100.00/housing; charge by the employer $100.00/food & medical benefits. Contact: Mr. & Mrs. Antonio T. Lim &/or Carmen Ong. @234-1629.

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1 AUTO MECHANIC (M 6165)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Free housing; medical benefits & workmen's compensation. Contact: Transamerica (Saipan) Corporation @234-1629.

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1 ELECTRICAL ENGINEER (MANAGER) (M 6166)
Salary:$650.00-$1,800.00/monthly. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workers compensation provided by employer. Contact: JAP Professional Corp. dba GEMS (Guam Electrical Material Supply) @235-5902.

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4 MASSEUSE/MASSEUR (M 6167)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by employer. Contact: American Global Voice Ltd. @233-8119.

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235-NEWS

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2007 economic census begins in CNMI. PAGE 5
INSIDE
'Many still oppose federalization'
NEW YEAR'S DAY MISHAPS
Car slams into pole, 3 hurt by fireworks
Sleep disruptions may up diabetes risk

WHATZIT Solution:
More harm than good

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1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (M 6168)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation provided. Contact: ILC Corporation dba Ladera Int'l School of Saipan @288-2006.

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1 COMPUTER TECHNICIAN (M 6169)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Free medical expenses & free medical insurance. Contact: Multi Business Corporation dba Video Haus, Accounting Service, VH Mini Mart, C3 Wholesale Seafoods @233-5397.

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1 MANAGER (M 6171)
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PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB08-DEQ-024

OPENING DATE: JANUARY 24, 2008 **TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) X-RAY FLORESCENT (XRF) FIELD SCREENING INSTRUMENT WITH ACCOMPANYING ACCESSORIES FOR THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICK-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ FRANK M. RABAULIMAN
DIRECTOR OF DEQ

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP: RFP08-DPW-023

SUBMISSION: JANUARY 30, 2008 **TIME: 4:00 P.M.**

"SECURITY SERVICES FOR THE MARPI SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE IS SCHEDULED FOR 9:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME, JANUARY 16, 2008 AT DPW – SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT OFFICE, AT THE LOWER BASE REFUSE TRANSFER STATION.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ DIEGO B. SONGSONG
ACTING SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

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HARM GOOD

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Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

As added service to our valued customers, you may now submit all your JVA placements for announcement/publication in *Saipan Tribune*'s print and online edition and KZMI/KCNM at the same time. No more worries of having to go to two different locations every time you need to place job vacancy announcements. Special rates are available for JVA customers under this arrangement.

Print*

• 1st position	$10
• 2nd position	$3
• Succeeding positions	$1

Combo (Print and Online)*

• 1st position	$13
• 2nd position	$4
• Succeeding positions	$2

Radio (KCNM/KZMI)

• Up to 6 positions	$5
• More than 6 positions	$10

LOWER RATES! Effective Feb. 3, 2007

*These rates apply to all vacancy announcements that include corresponding benefits and which announcements are all under the same company name.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Job Vacancy Announcements

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.
- KCNM/KZMI: All ads placed on Friday (9am to 5pm) will be for Monday's radio announcement.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Perfect Pats march on to AFC title game

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—Tom Brady was almost perfect. The Patriots still are. Their poised and prolific quarterback knocked another mark out of the books in their record-breaking season, completing all but two of his 28 passes to lead New England to its second straight AFC championship game with a 31-20 victory over the Jacksonville Jaguars on Saturday night.

The Patriots pulled away in the second half to improve to 17-0, matching the 1972 Miami Dolphins, the only team to go unbeaten from the first game of the season through the Super Bowl.

Two more wins and the Patriots will join them—much to the chagrin of some of those Dolphins.

Just one more win next Sunday at Gillette Stadium will put the Patriots back in the Super Bowl for the first time in three years after three championships in the previous four years. They'll face the winner of Sunday's game between San Diego and Indianapolis, which beat New England in last year's AFC title game.

"The thing about it now is that none of it matters." Brady said. "For 17 games, it all comes down to this and we were here last year. I hope we perform better."

Brady completed 92.9 percent of his passes, breaking Phil Simms record of 88 percent (22-of-25) set in the Super Bowl after the 1986 season in which he led the New York Giants to a 39-20 win over the Denver Broncos.

And Brady did it mostly without Randy Moss, who had only one catch against double- and triple-coverage.

"They went back to the old way of covering me," Moss said. "We win as a team. I've never been a greedy guy. I'm not going to start now."

Brady hit all the other receivers - throwing for three touchdowns and 262 yards.

"When they're open like that, it's my job to hit them," he said. "They were open every time, so it's easy to play quarterback."

While Jacksonville's defense struggled to stop Brady and crew, New England's defense had no such problems against the Jaguars' one-two rushing punch of Fred Taylor and Maurice Jones-Drew. The league's second-most productive duo during the regular season combined for just 66 yards.

It was the Patriots who dominated on the ground as Laurence Maroney rushed for 122 yards, including a 1-yard touchdown.

Add Brady's on-target passing to these regular-season records—50 touchdown passes by Brady, 23 scoring catches by Moss and 589 points by the team—and Jacksonville (12-6) became just another team that couldn't stop the Patriots.

And they're not done yet.

"Brady's been great all year," Jaguars coach Jack Del Rio said. "He's as good as they come."

Brady completed his first 16 passes before the next one went off the hands of Benjamin Watson, who caught two others for touchdowns.

The next nine passes found their targets before one went right through Wes Welker's hands with 6:46 left in the game.

"I thought he managed the team well," coach Bill Belichick said. "Of course, he threw the ball well."

One throw the Patriots didn't make may have helped the Jaguars take a 7-0 lead. David Garrard completed an 8-yard touchdown pass to Matt Jones on their first possession. He threw as he was going down while in the grasp of Mike Vrabel, and his knee might have touched the turf before he released the pass.

Belichick pulled the red challenge flag from his sock, but held on to it.

"It was just too late by the time we got a look at it," he said.

Brady tied it on the Patriots' first possession with a 3-yard scoring pass to Watson.

New England capitalized on Garrard's fumble on Jacksonville's second possession when he was hit by Ty Warren and Vrabel recovered at the Jaguars 29. On the first play of the second quarter, Maroney ran in from the 1.

But Garrard, in just his second playoff game, kept matching the success of Brady, a two-time Super Bowl MVP. He completed 22 of 33 passes for 278 yards, two touchdowns and an interception.

Garrard directed a 95-yard drive after Jones-Drew misplayed the kickoff and recovered at his own 5. With an excellent blend of passing and running, the Jaguars covered those 95 yards in 11 plays—never even reaching a third down—and tied it on Garrard's 6-yard pass to Ernest Wilford.

The Patriots then moved to the Jaguars 19, but a chop block against guard Stephen Neal set them back 15 yards and Stephen Gostkowski ended up missing a 35-yard field goal, leaving the score tied at 14 at halftime.

They came out of the locker room with trickery on their minds.

On a first-and-goal at the Jacksonville 6, Brady put on a good acting performance as he jumped and raised his empty right arm, making it appear as if Kevin Faulk had taken a direct snap. The quarterback, meanwhile, hid the ball in his left hand.

Then he switched to his right hand and found Welker at the back of the end zone to give the Patriots the lead for good, 21-14.

"I'm looking for my Academy Award on that play," Brady said. "They bit on the run pretty good."

And the Jaguars couldn't come back they way they did a week earlier when they beat Pittsburgh 31-29 on Josh Scobee's 25-yard field goal with 37 seconds left.

One of their last chances ended when Rodney Harrison intercepted Garrard's pass with 4:34 left. That gave Harrison four interceptions in his last four playoff games, tying Aenaes Williams' record for the NFL's longest playoff streak.

"Rodney's interception at the end sealed it," Brady said. "We really needed that play."

Packers 42, Seahawks 20

At Green Bay, Wisconsin, with Lambeau Field looking like a snow globe, Brett Favre frolicked in the flurries with three touchdown passes as the Green Bay Packers beat the Seattle Seahawks in the NFL playoffs.

This must have been the scene the 38-year-old three-time NFL MVP imagined when he decided to postpone retirement and try for another Super Bowl ring.

"It does make you appreciate it," Favre said. "We could be 3-13 next year. Who knows? So enjoy it and try to get the most out of it."

It was the highest postseason score in the Packers' history.

Ryan Grant made history, too, recovering from two fumbles that put the Packers down 14-0 after only four minutes to set a Packers' postseason record with 201 yards rushing. He scored three times; Greg Jennings caught a pair of touchdown tosses; and Favre tied his personal best for touchdown strikes in a playoffs game.

His most memorable effort was the crazy toss to Donald Lee that set up another score right before halftime. He somehow spun free from the Seahawks' clutches and stumbled ahead in the snow. Ever the gambler, he flipped a wobbly, underhanded pass that he had no business trying, let alone completing.

"I'm not quite as nimble as I once was," Favre said.

In the months ahead, Wisconsin might again become a wonder-land—will Favre come back again?—but for now, fans are guaranteed at least one more game for the NFC championship, for the first time since 1997.

The Packers will take on the winner of Sunday's game between the New York Giants and Dallas Cowboys. If the Cowboys win, they'll host Green Bay; if the Giants win, they'll visit Lambeau.

Green Bay beat the Giants this season and lost to the Cowboys. Favre would certainly prefer to stay home—he's 0-9 lifetime at Dallas.

Coming off their 35-14 win over the Washington Redskins last week in the wild-card round, the Seahawks seemed primed for an upset.

On Green Bay's first play, Grant caught a pass and fumbled. Then on Seattle's first play, Shaun Alexander plunged in from the 1.

Grant didn't do any better a minute later, when another fumble set up Seattle quarterback Matt Hasselbeck's 11-yard touchdown strike to Bobby Engram.

At that point, Green Bay looked lost. But when the snow started to pile, so did the points for the Packers.

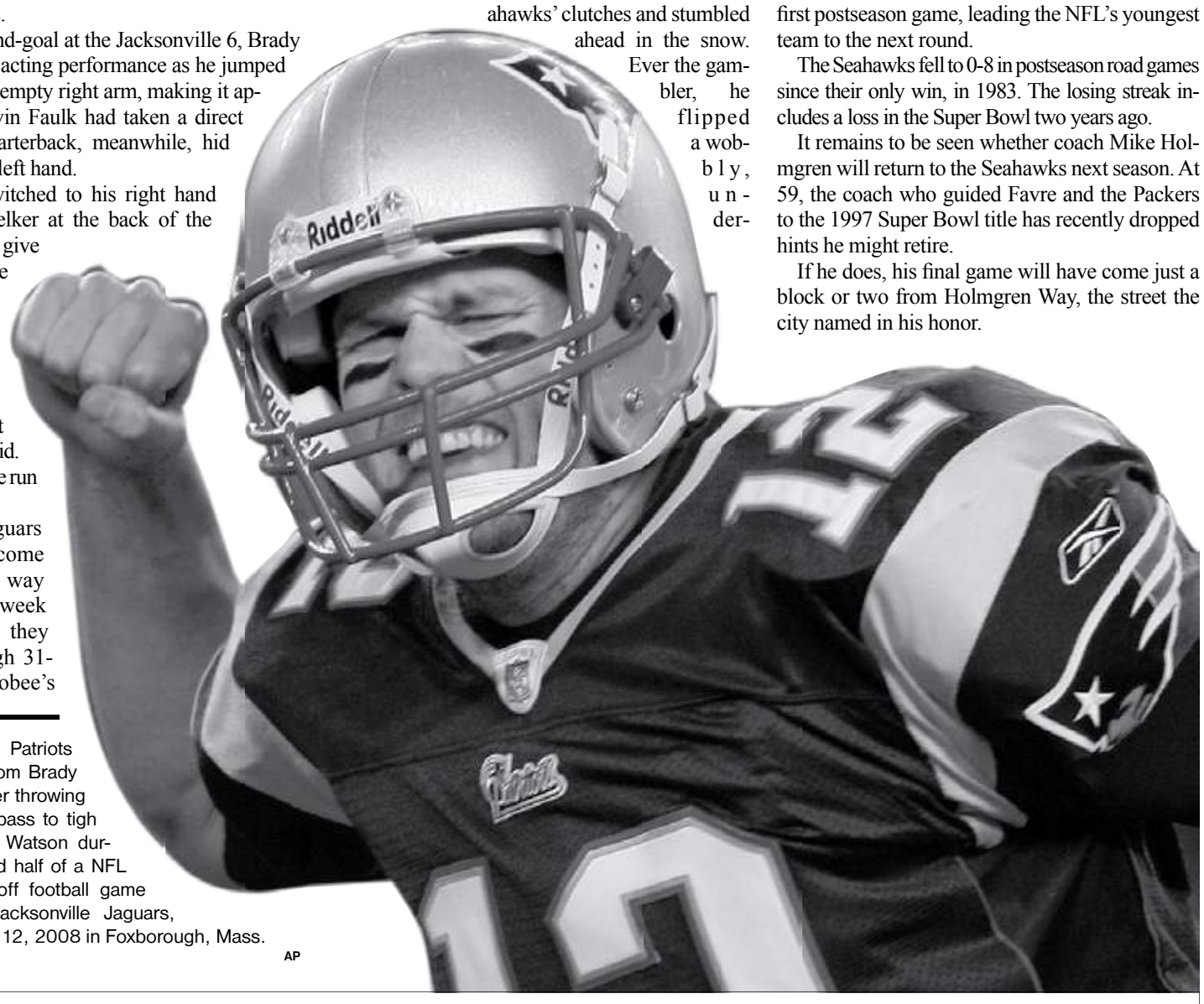
It was 14-all after the first quarter, and Green Bay led 28-17 at halftime.

Favre joined Joe Montana as the lone players to pass for more than 5,000 yards in the postseason. Once Favre started to connect, there was no stopping him. Coach Mike McCarthy won in his first postseason game, leading the NFL's youngest team to the next round.

The Seahawks fell to 0-8 in postseason road games since their only win, in 1983. The losing streak includes a loss in the Super Bowl two years ago.

It remains to be seen whether coach Mike Holmgren will return to the Seahawks next season. At 59, the coach who guided Favre and the Packers to the 1997 Super Bowl title has recently dropped hints he might retire.

If he does, his final game will have come just a block or two from Holmgren Way, the street the city named in his honor.



New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady celebrates after throwing a touchdown pass to tigh end Benjamin Watson during the second half of a NFL divisional playoff football game against the Jacksonville Jaguars, Saturday, Jan. 12, 2008 in Foxborough, Mass.

AP

Clemens dishes on pitching, not steroids

WACO, Texas (AP)—Roger Clemens talked about pitching and conditioning. What he didn't talk about was steroids.

In a session before about 1,000 Texas high school baseball coaches Saturday, the seven-time Cy Young Award winner stuck to baseball and cracked jokes, making no mention of the allegations in the Mitchell Report that he used performance-enhancing drugs.

"He talked like nothing ever happened. It was a nonissue in there," Waco Midway High assistant coach Coby Meinzer said.

Clemens spoke for more than an hour at the closing session of the annual convention of the Texas High School Baseball Coaches Association, the nation's largest such group. He shared tips on techniques and took questions, all pertaining to the game itself.

"It was real warm, nothing negative at all," said Will Joiner, a coach from La Porte High.

The speech was closed to the media, and Clemens was driven in and out of the convention center through a private garage.

In a video of his session, the 45-year-old Texan joked about the media attention. Clemens' former trainer, Brian McNamee, has said he injected the pitcher with steroids and human growth hormone. Clemens has vehemently denied the accusations.

But that was as far as it went—no mention of performance-enhancing drugs, the release last month of the report on doping in baseball by former Sen. George Mitchell or Clemens' pending appearance Feb. 13 before Congress.

When asked early last year to speak, Clemens' session initially was advertised on the association's Web site as the pitcher talking about his "vigorous workout" and how he played so long. The topic was removed several weeks ago.

Wizards hand Celtics 2nd loss in 3 games

WASHINGTON (AP)—When the turnover count hit 20, the Boston Celtics were in trouble. Now, the team that had been routing the NBA has lost two out of three.

The Washington Wizards, overcoming a sloppy night of their own, rallied from a seven-point, fourth-quarter deficit and closed the game with a 15-4 run Saturday night for an 85-78 victory over the Celtics

Both teams showed the after-effects of tough games the night before. Boston finished with 21 turnovers and had its lowest point total of the year. The Wizards had 20 turnovers and made only 2 of 18 3-pointers, but they outrebounded the Celtics 49-30, made 27 of 30 free throws and had the fortitude when it mattered—in the fourth quarter.

The momentum turned when Antonio Daniels made a 3-pointer with 1:51 remaining to give the Wizards a 75-74 lead, and Brendan Haywood forced the Celtics' 20th turnover at the other end by getting his hands in the way of a bad pass by Kevin Garnett. DeShawn Stevenson took advantage by drawing a foul while attempting a 3-pointer as the shot clock was about to expire—and making all three free throws.

Stevenson led the Wizards with 19 points. Caron Butler had 16 points and 10 rebounds, and Antawn Jamison survived a 4-for-15 shooting night to score 10 points while grabbing 16 rebounds.

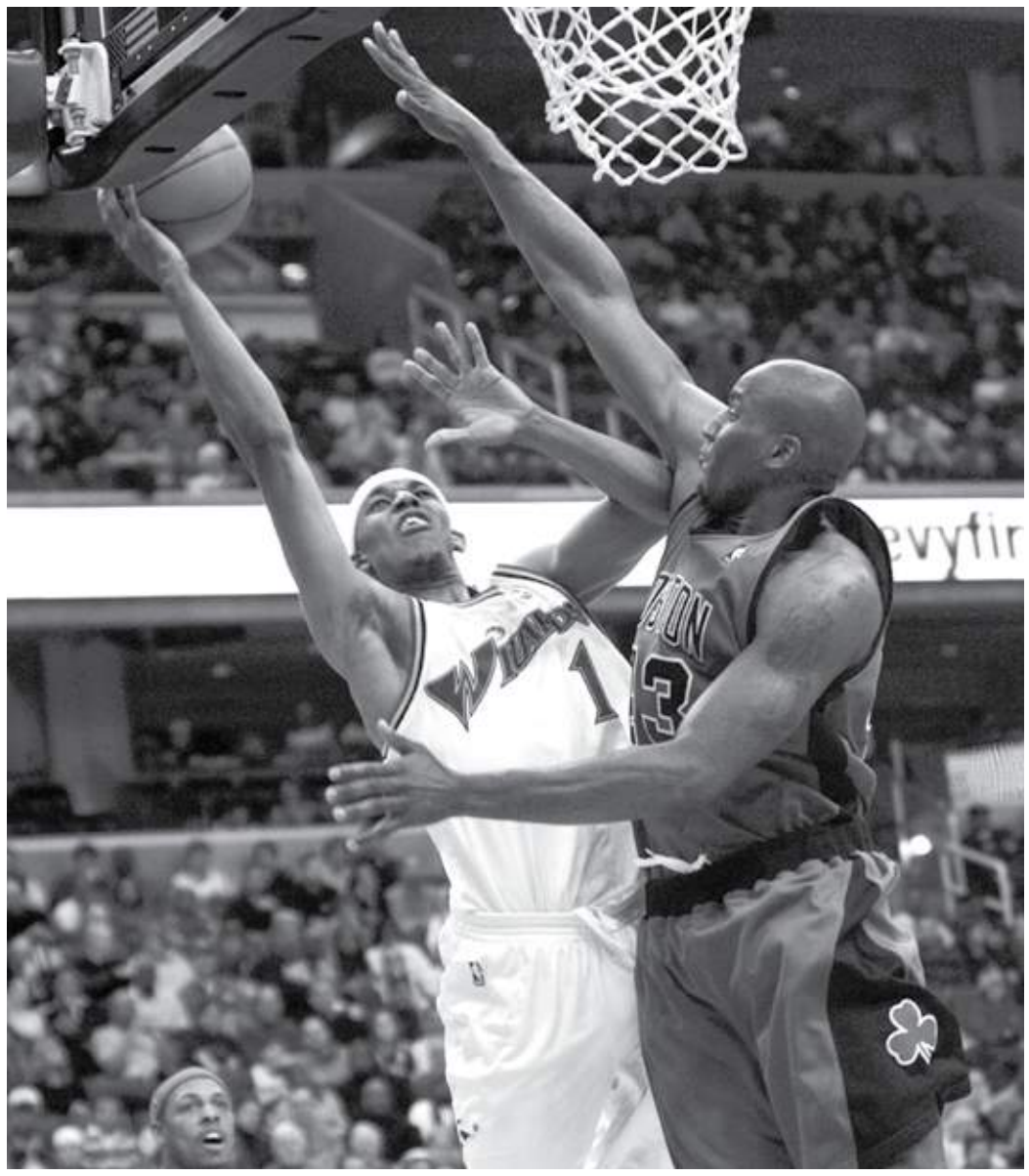
Garnett scored 19 points to lead the Celtics, who played without point guard Rajon Rondo. Rondo hurt his back during Friday's win at New Jersey.

The Celtics had their 10-game road winning streak snapped, and the loss came only three days after a home loss to Charlotte. Boston's last road loss was Nov. 27 at Cleveland in overtime.

For the Wizards, it was by far their biggest victory over the season, and it broke a pattern in which they had been beating the bottom teams and losing to the top ones. Washington hadn't defeated a team with a winning record since Dec. 1. The victory also avenged a 103-83 blowout loss at Boston on Nov. 2.

The Wizards were weary from an overtime victory at Atlanta on Friday, and the Celtics were less than 24 hours removed from a fourth-quarter, come-from-behind win over the Nets. The quick turnaround took its toll in careless ball-handling and in tired legs that weren't quite able to put enough oomph into the jumpers. For every good play, there seemed to be a bad one—such as when Jamison stole the ball from Ray Allen but missed the subsequent layup on the fast break.

The Celtics committed six first-quarter turnovers, and the Wizards shot 32 percent in the period.



AP

Washington Wizards rookie Nick Young (1) shoots and scores against Boston Celtics' Kendrick Perkins, during the first half of their NBA basketball game, Saturday, Jan. 12, 2008, in Washington.

To make it worse for Washington, many in the sellout crowd rooted for the visiting team by chanting "Let's Go Celtics."

An 8-0 run gave the Wizards a 35-27 lead in the second quarter, but a four-point play helped the Celtics close the gap. Roger Mason was called for a clear-path foul for grabbing Garnett's jersey from behind on a breakaway. After Garnett made both free throws, the Celtics kept the ball and scored when Kendrick Perkins dunked and celebrated by bouncing as if he were riding a pogo stick.

Leading 41-40 at halftime, the Wizards fell behind quickly by starting the third quarter 0-for-5 from the field with three turnovers. The Celtics converted the miscues into a 7-0 run, but they were hardly on a roll. They even found a way to louse up a 3-on-1 fast break when Tony Allen, who started in place of Rondo, decided to make an unnecessary extra pass that was stolen by Daniels.

Pistons 103, Bobcats 100, OT

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Richard Hamilton hit the go-ahead jump-shot and two clinching free throws in the final 17 seconds to give Central Division leaders Detroit victory over Charlotte.

Hamilton, who scored 26 points, put the Pistons ahead 101-100 with 16.2 seconds to play. After Emeka Okafor was called for basket interference at the other end, Hamilton hit two free throws with 0.2 seconds left to seal Detroit's win.

A night after losing in double-overtime, the Bobcats dressed only eight players due to injuries.

Spurs 105, Timberwolves 88

In San Antonio, coach Gregg Popovich notched up his 600th regular-season victory as San Antonio downed NBA strugglers Minnesota.

Manu Ginobili scored 22 points and Tony Parker had 21 to help San Antonio nip successive losses.

The Timberwolves, who have the worst record in the NBA with just five wins from 36 games, have dropped 14 straight on the road.

The Spurs trailed 45-44 at halftime before they took the lead for good with an 11-2 run.

Suns 122, Bucks 114

In Phoenix, Pacific Division leader Phoenix brought up its 20th consecutive home win over Milwaukee.

Steve Nash scored 26 of his season-high 35 points in the second half, a day after missing a game with a stomach illness.

Andrew Bogut made 14-of-16 shots, all near the basket, for a career-best 29 points to lead the Bucks.

Jazz 119, Magic 115

In Salt Lake City, Utah handed Southeast Division leaders Orlando consecutive road losses for the first time this season.

Deron Williams had 17 points and 11 assists for the Jazz, who have won three in a row for the first time since early December.

The Magic, who lead the NBA with 16 road wins, never led and blew several chances from the foul line in the fourth quarter.

Pacers 111, Kings 105

In Sacramento, California, Indiana never trailed against Sacramento while snapping a three-game losing streak.

Mike Dunleavy scored 23 points to help the Pacers end a seven-game road losing streak.

Mavericks 95, Clippers 94

In Los Angeles, Jerry Stackhouse hit a 3-pointer as time expired as Dallas edged Los Angeles.

Dallas got 22 points from Dirk Nowitzki and 20 from Jason Terry to notch a seventh straight victory and remain tied with Phoenix for the top spot in the Western Conference.

The Clippers, who lost their fourth straight game despite shooting 52 percent from the field—the first time in 33 games this season that they finished at 50 percent or better.

K.J. Choi extends lead to 4 at Sony Open

HONOLULU (AP)—K.J. Choi had a special audience Saturday at the Sony Open when 11 friends from his hometown in South Korea flew across the Pacific Ocean overnight to watch him play. He made it worth the trip with another strong performance to extend his lead.

Choi opened with a pair of birdies and closed with a birdie from the bunker, giving him a 4-under 66 and a four-shot lead over rookie Tim Wilkinson as he tries to become the first outright wire-to-wire winner at Waialae in eight years.

"I felt a lot of support," Choi said.

Two of the friends were financial backers when he started his career—one owns a hospital, the other a restaurant in Wondo, South Korea. They made plans to come to Oahu two months ago, although work kept them from arriving until the weekend.

Choi laughed when asked if there was pressure to make the cut.

Now, the pressure is on everyone chasing him.

Choi was at 15-under 195 and had the largest lead at Waialae since Paul Azinger led by five going into the final round in 2000. That also was the last wire-to-wire winner without ties in the Sony Open.

The only threat on a balmy afternoon came from a rookie who played in the morning.

Wilkinson, a left-hander from New Zealand playing in only his third PGA Tour event, birdied seven of his first 11 holes and finished with an 8-under 62 for the best round of the week.

Kevin Na, who started the third round two shots behind, couldn't keep up with Choi's birdie-birdie start and only a pair of birdies on the final four holes left him in the mix. Na shot 69 and was at 10-under 210 with Stephen Marino (68).

Another shot back was a group that included Chad Campbell, who sized up the situation for everyone chasing Choi.

"He's going to be tough," Campbell said. "He hits a lot of fairways, and that's what you have to do out here."

Choi is 4-0 on the PGA Tour when he has the lead going into the final round, and his average score is 67 in those situations.

Wilkinson at least has experience with a decent crowd at Waialae. He played the first two rounds with 17-year-old island favorite Tadd Fujikawa, who missed the cut. Fujikawa had the largest gallery the first two days, and while the fans ignored the newcomer from New Zealand, Wilkinson said it sure beat his last few years on the Nationwide Tour.

"It's a lot of fun playing in front of people. You hit a good shot, you actually get applause," Wilkinson said. "On the Nationwide Tour, you might hit a good shot and you get nothing."

Even so, the gallery Sunday figures to be one-sided.

Choi is popular in these parts, with several fans showing up Saturday with South Korean flags, and his group of friends dressed in yellow. He birdied his first two holes from inside 10 feet and nearly made an ace on the fourth as he quickly expanded his lead.

"I figured I'd lose some ground to K.J.," Marino said. "I think I can (catch him), but I'll need some help from him."

Campbell is hitting the ball so well that he didn't miss a fairway, quite a feat at Waialae. He also hit all 18 greens, but only converted four birdie putts to finish with a 66.

It looked early on that Choi wouldn't leave anyone with a chance.

He hit his approach to 3 feet on the opening hole for birdie, made a 10-foot birdie on the next hole, and his tee shot on the par-3 fourth took a few hops and hit the back of the cup before spinning 12 feet away. He had to settle for par.

The only player who seriously threatened Choi was already done for the day. Wilkinson made his final birdie as Choi was heading to the first tee, and the 11-under 199 stayed on the leaderboard the entire day.

Wilkinson quietly put together the best round of the tournament, starting with back-to-back birdies, and it included a bunker shot he holed on the seventh. He didn't get anyone's attention until two more birdies to start the back nine, putting him at 7 under for his round and threatening the course record.

But the birdies dried up until the end, when he hit a good wedge into 3 feet.

"It didn't come into my mind at all, funnily enough," Wilkinson said about a course record (60) or better. "But on 12, 13, 14, I left them right in the middle. So had those gone in, I probably would have thought about it."

The 29-year-old Kiwi seems unflappable, and he has a history of that. He started the final round of Q-school on the cut line, then closed with a 68 to tie for 14th and earn his card for the first time.

"The night before the final round at Q-school, I slept nine hours straight," he said. "I wasn't even worried about it. I was right on the number. And that night, I couldn't sleep that night after I qualified. It meant a lot."

He'll get plenty of time to sleep in Sunday, and maybe nerves will set in eventually.

Saipan Sportsfest volunteers meeting today

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Volunteers for this year's Saipan Sportsfest will have a meeting today starting 6pm at the conference room of DFS Galleria in Gaparan.

According to Taga, Inc. president Wolf Mojica, the meeting will finalize the volunteers' assignments for the 2007 XTERRA Saipan Championship and Tagaman triathlons.

Volunteers are expected to be grouped in committees namely bike transition, trail cleaning, traffic, water, run safety, and registration.

The 7th XTERRA Saipan is scheduled on March 7, while the Tagaman will be held on March 15.

Aside from the XTERRA and Tagaman triathlons, other events in the Saipan Sportsfest are the Taga Kids, Sophia 7k and 10k Walk, special recreational activities, and clinics to be conducted by the professional triathletes.

For more information about the upcoming Saipan Sportsfest, email Mojica at wolf@saipan.com, Bill Sakovich at swimsak@yahoo.com, Kanae Quinn at dosm@picsaipan.com, or Yoichi Matsumura at matsumura@pdisaipan.com.

SEDA

From Page 28

the Masters division champions after Ryan Achas, Robert Chargualaf, Warlee Ellama, Ed Gabito, Lino Ibis, Noel Montalbo, Jun Olita, and Jerry Zapanta compiled the most wins against their opponents.

Oleai's D' Compañeros placed second with the Krystal Wild Guys placed second and third.

Oleai then added the Bud Light Cup titles in the Masters and C divisions when the Stallions and Island Mix Shooters, which also placed third in the C league of the regular season, brought down their opponents in the season-ending tournament.

Porky's Porketteers and Mixed Pokie topped the Thursday B and Ladies divisions in the regular season. Mixed Pokie added the Ladies division title in the Bud Light Cup.

The Porketeers were composed of the husband-and-wife tandem of Jimmy and Charlotte Tenepere, Cypriano Berki, Joe Mafnas, John Salas, Lawrence Villaflores, Simeon Villarico, and Pam Ybañez.

Mary Lois Blaluk, Frances Magofna, Beverly Ngirkmekur, Karmen Ohri, Charlotte Tenepere, and Agnes Tereyama made up Ladies champion Mixed Pokie.

Porky's owner Bruce Bateman also collected trophies in the A and Tuesday B divisions after Put It In came in third and the PC Destroyers placed second in each division.

Bud's Hammer Tim and Jonny's You Know finished second and third in the Thursday B division while Bud's Best and Jonny's Fearless completed the Top 3 in the Ladies class.

Jonny's bar won the C division after the Insane Dart Posse bested the second place Gala Assassins and the Mix Shooters for the title. Kevin Ada, Manny Ada, Vince Dela Cruz, Julinao Matsutaro, Joseph Pangelinan, Quenna Sablan, Eldred Shai, and Mae Villagomez teamed up to win the title.

The Vargas Snipers—composed of Ryan Achas, Nestor Abing, Nestor De Vera, Warlee Ellama, and Mike Vargas—topped the A division with the Jonny's Flame Throwers and Porky's Put It In ending up in second and third place.

In the Tuesday B division, the Bud's 80 Proofers of Erwin Aragon, Reggie Borbon, Romy Hernane, Luis Ramos, Agnes Tereyama, and Jun Vergara completed their title conquest while Porky's PC Destroyers and Jonny's Oh My Gosh settling for second and third place.

Len's 5 Major Leaks, Bud's Bring It On, Bud's Hammer—failing in their respective title bids in the regular season—bounced back in the Bud Light Cup by winning the A, Tuesday B, and Thursday B division crowns.

Larry Briones, John Q. Camacho, Edward Cepeda, Jack Deleon Guerrero, Zackery King, Mike Somorang, and Randy J. Tudela collected their A division title while Jenny Cabrera, Eddie Iglecias, Jessie Iglecias, Ray Iglecias, Romy Oliveros, and John C. Tenorio won the Tuesday B for Bring It On.

Cabrera, Oliveros, and the Iglecias were later joined by Borbon, Edward Dela Cruz, and Michael Hambros in claiming the Thursday B trophy for Hammer Time.

The longest-running darts league enters its 31st season when the Winter/Spring league opens either in late February or late March.

HEO

From Page 28

ga Lawn Tennis Club courts in Wodonga, Australia.

Playing in his final tournament as part of the International Tennis Federation Pacific-Oceania Junior touring team, Heo has a tall order when he goes up against de Boer in today's semis match at 8:30am (Australian time).

The winner will face the winner of the match between top seed Adam Taylor and the fourth ranked Ethan Tulliani in the 11am finals.

The 15-year-old Heo reached the semifinals after a stunning 6-4, 6-4 win over the seventh seeded Sam Clow of Victoria. Prior to his quarterfinal win, Heo also scored major upsets over two other seeded opponents.

The Marianas High School student dispatched No. 16 Dane McKinnon of Queensland, 7-5, 6-4, in the Last 16. Heo started his giant killing ways with a 6-4, 6-2 win over No. 3 Michael McKee of New South Wales in Round of 32.

Heo had an easy opening round win when Victoria's Matthew McKinnon withdrew due to an injury.

Heo made it two in a row when he together with partner William O'Connell reached the semifinals of the boys' 16-and-under singles division.

Heo and O'Connell opened with a 6-3, 7-6 win over the pair of Jarrod Liston and Riley Oberin to advance to the Round of 16.

They then met the fourth-seeded tandem of Clow and Nathan Jilich of Selby, Victoria where they battled back from a first set loss to escape with a hard-earned 1-6, 6-1, 13-11 decision to arrange a quarterfinal date with the unseeded duo of Jack Murray and Tyler Neve.

Heo and O'Connell cruised past Murray and Neve, 6-1, 6-4, to barge into the semifinals. They are scheduled to play at 12noon today against the winner of the match between the pairs of Andrew Donaldson and Dane McKinnon and second seeds Tulliani and Jake Alchin.

The other semifinal pairing is between top seeds Taylor and McKee and the third-seeded team of de Boer and John Warnock-Bennett.

After the tournament, Heo and the rest of the ITF Junior touring team will watch games in the Australian Open at Rod Laver Arena. Heo is expected to be back on Saipan before the end of the month.

Heo also reached the singles division quarterfinals in the 2008 Australia Post Margaret Court Cup then teamed up with O'Connell to make it to the Last 16 in the doubles.

He also entered the semifinal round of the consolation draw of two age divisions in the 2008 Ducats G.V. Junior Tennis Tournament in Shepparton, Australia last Sunday where he lost to tougher opponents from the host team at the Shepparton Lawn Tennis Club.

Heo is competing in his first Australian junior championship tournament after being invited to become a member of the International Tennis Federation Pacific-Oceania Junior touring team late last year.

Heo received an invitation to join the ITF Pacific-Oceania Junior touring team in Australia last October. He left Saipan last Dec. 27 to join a group of Under-18 players that will travel around Australia from Dec. 30 to Jan. 18.

BUD CUP

From Page 28

Rebels, and Bombers.

The Ol'Aces went on a 6-0 winning run before suffering their lone loss against the Saipan Stevedore Suns, 85-87, last Nov. 9.

The Ulloa's, meanwhile, caught the last trip to the playoffs after cruising to a 102-88 triumph over PTI/FMI last Friday.

The Ulloa's actually tied their victims and the G-Rollers I with the three teams sporting similar 5-7 slates. The Ulloa's earned the free ride to the next round after having the greater quotient in the tiebreaker since they defeated both teams in the elimination round.

The Ulloa's, which lost its first two games, scored their first win against the G-Rollers breezing to a 108-87 victory on Oct. 12.

The second-seeded Rock Steady will face No. 7 Bombers in the 8:30pm contest. Rock Steady finished the regular season tied with the Suns but got the second ranking after beating the Sonny Flores-coached team, 101-91, in overtime on Oct. 27.

On Wednesday, Jan. 16, the Suns take on the Rebels in the 7pm first game, while the Southern Sonics collide with the CNMI Junior Nationals at 8:30pm. This will be the sixth time that the Sonics and the Junior Nationals collide in the last six months.

The Sonics enjoy a 3-2 edge in their head-to-head match up against the Junior Nationals with their losses coming in the finals of the 17th Saipan Rotary Club 18-and-under Youth Basketball League last Dec. 20 and in the Bud Cup elimination round last Oct. 5.

The Sonics previously won against the Junior Nationals in the Boys' Division III finals of the 2007 NYBA DFS-SaipanCell Invitational on July 31 and in the Rotary league elimination round. They also defeated the Junior Nationals in the semifinals of the Micronesian Basketball Tournament last November in Guam.

The loser of the Ol'Aces-Ulloa's match will face the loser of the Sonics-Junior Nationals game on Jan. 18, Friday, in the first game, while the loser between Rock Steady and the Bombers will play against the loser of the game between the Suns and Rebels in the 8:30pm second game.

On Jan. 21, Monday, the winner of the Ol'Aces-Ulloa's game will face the winning team in the Sonics-Nationals match at 7pm, while the second game will have the winner of the Rock Steady-Bombers match going up against the victor of the Suns-Rebels contest.

The succeeding playoff dates are on Jan. 23, 28, and 30 with the finals taking place on Feb. 1 and if necessary on Feb. 2.

BANMI president Elias Rangamar did not schedule a game on Jan. 25 since he is planning to hold a fundraising and special function for the championship game. "Friday is a great day to do the fundraising activity."

HENSLEY

From Page 28

ued in the semifinals with Dimaano taking out top seed Raymond Zapanta in a low-scoring game, 175-152, while Hensley sustained his pin-blasting ways, ousting No. 2 Robles, 202-172.

In the finals, both bowlers were neck-and-neck until the middle games when Hensley salvaged a gutter shot with a spare. That seemed to wake him up in the contest, as he then bunched together three consecutive strikes to seal the deal.

Hensley, who rolled the CNMI's first perfect game in two decades in Feb. 10, 2004, said he was dedicating his 2007 King of the Lanes victory to his wife Madonna and their daughter McKenzie.

The Coca-Cola sales representative said he was surprised he went all the way considering he recorded nine or 10 gutter shots in the tournament.

The Papago resident said he didn't he expect at all to win and was merely content to get back his entry fee back.

Two Sundays ago, Diane Camacho and Jamie Vales were crowned Queen and Princess of the Lanes, respectively, after defeating separate opponents at the CBC.

Hensley, Camacho, and Vales were feted last night during the 2007 King, Queen, and Princess of the Lanes awards banquet at the Club V of Saipan Grand Hotel. Also honored were the 12 monthly King, Queen, and Princess of the Lanes winners.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	30	5	.857	_
Toronto	19	17	.528	11 1/2
New Jersey	18	18	.500	12 1/2
Philadelphia	14	23	.378	17
New York	9	26	.257	21

Southeast Division

Orlando	23	16	.590	_
Washington	19	16	.543	2
Atlanta	15	17	.469	4 1/2
Charlotte	13	23	.361	8 1/2
Miami	8	28	.222	13 1/2

Central Division

Detroit	28	9	.757	_
Cleveland	19	18	.514	9
Indiana	17	21	.447	11 1/2
Chicago	14	20	.412	12 1/2
Milwaukee	15	22	.405	13

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	26	11	.703	_
San Antonio	24	11	.686	1
New Orleans	24	12	.667	1 1/2
Houston	20	17	.541	6
Memphis	10	26	.278	15 1/2

Northwest Division

Denver	22	13	.629	_
Portland	22	13	.629	_
Utah	21	17	.553	2 1/2
Seattle	9	27	.250	13 1/2
Minnesota	5	31	.139	17 1/2

Pacific Division

Phoenix	26	11	.703	_
L.A. Lakers	24	11	.686	1
Golden State	21	16	.568	5
Sacramento	14	21	.400	11
L.A. Clippers	10	23	.303	14

Yesterday's Games

Detroit 103, Charlotte 100, OT
Washington 85, Boston 78
San Antonio 105, Minnesota 88
Utah 119, Orlando 115
Phoenix 122, Milwaukee 114
Indiana 111, Sacramento 105
Dallas 95, L.A. Clippers 94

SONY OPEN SCORES

Third Round

K.J. Choi	64-65-66	195
Tim Wilkinson	68-69-62	199
Steve Marino	65-67-68	200
Kevin Na	67-64-69	200
Troy Matteson	69-67-65	201
Chad Campbell	66-69-66	201
Jay Williamson	67-68-66	201
Rory Sabbatini	66-69-66	201
J.B. Holmes	68-70-64	202
Doug LaBelle II	67-69-66	202
Steve Stricker	71-65-66	202
Pat Perez	69-66-67	202
Fred Funk	69-64-69	202
Stephen Ames	70-68-65	203
Tom Pernice, Jr.	70-67-66	203
Mark Wilson	72-65-66	203
Dustin Johnson	68-68-67	203
Jerry Kelly	67-67-69	203
Chez Reavie	68-66-69	203
Heath Slocum	65-69-69	203
Parker McLachlin	73-66-65	204
Shigeki Maruyama	68-68-68	204
Carl Pettersson	67-68-69	204
Brian Gay	67-67-70	204
Brad Adamonis	66-68-70	204
Jesper Parnevik	69-70-66	205
Matt Jones	68-69-68	205
Daniel Chopra	66-71-68	205
Alejandro Canizares	67-67-71	205
Bubba Watson	70-69-67	206
Jeff Maggert	69-69-68	206
Tom Lehman	70-68-68	206
Yusaku Miyazato	68-69-69	206
Y.E. Yang	69-68-69	206
Zach Johnson	67-70-69	206
Vaughn Taylor	67-70-69	206
Liang Wen-chong	70-66-70	206
Jim McGovern	71-65-70	206
Bob Estes	69-66-71	206
Jimmy Walker	65-68-73	206
Vijay Singh	70-68-69	207
Jim Furyk	68-70-69	207
John Merrick	69-69-69	207
Paul Azinger	70-68-69	207
J.P. Hayes	66-70-71	207
Scott Sterling	70-69-69	208
Patrick Sheehan	71-68-69	208
Cameron Beckman	67-71-70	208
Daisuke Maruyama	68-69-71	208
Spencer Levin	67-68-73	208
James Driscoll	66-69-73	208
Martin Laird	69-70-70	209
Kiyoshi Miyazato	69-70-70	209
George McNeill	68-71-70	209
Steve Lowery	66-72-71	209
Kevin Streelman	68-69-72	209
Shane Bertsch	71-66-72	209
Briny Baird	68-68-73	209
John Mallinger	67-72-71	210
Sean O'Hair	69-70-71	210
Chad Collins	67-70-73	210
Robert Gamez	67-70-73	210
Matt Kuchar	70-67-73	210
John Riegger	67-69-74	210
Dudley Hart	68-69-74	211
Mitsuhiro Tateyama	66-70-75	211
Mark Calcavecchia	68-71-73	212
Jason Allred	69-69-74	212

Bud Cup Standings

x-Ol'Aces	11	1
y-Rock Steady	10	2
y-Suns	10	2
y-Sonics	9	3
y-Junior Nationals	8	4
y-Runnin Rebels	6	6
y-Bombers	6	6
y-D-I Ulloa's	5	7
PTI/FMI	5	7
G-Rollers I	5	7
G-Rollers II	3	9
Lali IV	1	11
Proa	0	12

x-clinch pennant
y-clinch playoff spot

Wakai Nekko No Kai golf benefit on Jan. 23

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

The Marianas Visitors Authority along with the Saipan Mayor's Office and the Northern Marianas College is organizing the Wakai Nekko No Kai Friendship Golf Tournament on Jan. 23 at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort.

Showtime is set at 6am with shotgun start scheduled an hour later at 7am. Entry fee for the double Peoria-format competition is $75.

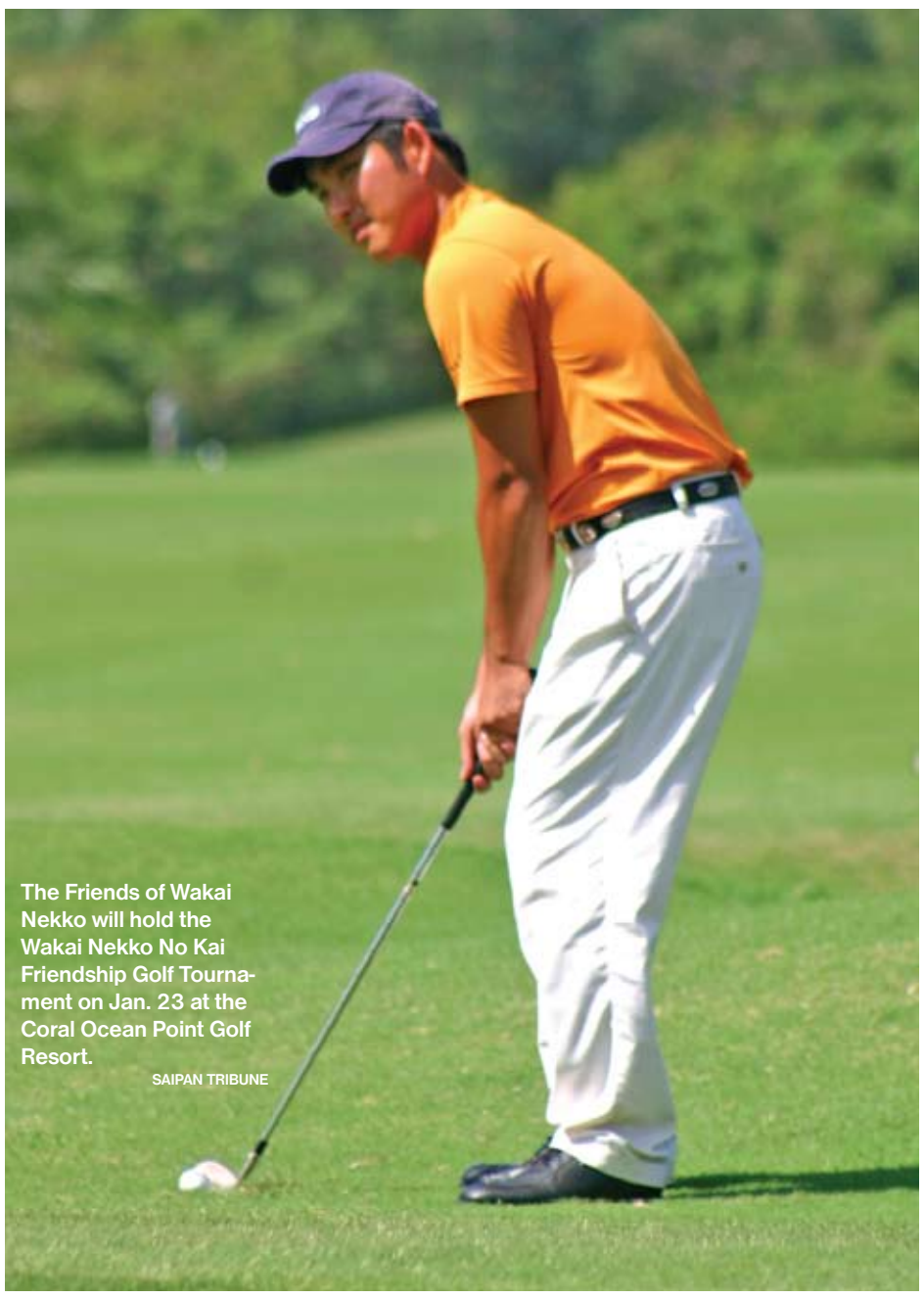
Aside from handsome prizes through first and 10th places ($400 for first, $300 for second, $200 for third, $100 for fourth, and consolation prizes from 5th to 10th finishers), a 2008 Toyota Yaris will be the hole-in-one prize in hole No. 12 and a special prize will be given to the closest to the pin in hole No. 7.

An awards banquet will be held immediately after the tournament at the COP poolside were "fabulous and awesome door prize prizes" await participants.

MVA, Saipan Mayor's Office, and NMC—collectively called "Friends of Wakai Nekko"—are holding the fundraising activity to help the Wakai Nekko No Kai continue its voyages to the CNMI.

The ocean university has been visiting Saipan for 39 years and has brought a total of 16,000 students to the CNMI.

However, because of the mortgage of the Nekko House that financed last year's voyage to Guam and Saipan, Wakai Nekko No Kai is faced with serious financial predicament resulting in its 40th year visit now in limbo.



The Friends of Wakai Nekko will hold the Wakai Nekko No Kai Friendship Golf Tournament on Jan. 23 at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort.
SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The mortgage was supposed to be paid Dec. 25, 2007, but "to this day, it has not been paid yet," according to Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela.

According to Tudela, Wakai Nekko No Kai president and founder Hideo Kato said that he wanted to have a big celebration for its 40th year visit.

Tudela said because the golf tournament is scheduled on a weekday, he and MVA director J.M. Guerrero will ask the governor to allow department heads to go ahead and golf just for that day "to raise funds for the university."

Fundraising activities have been proposed "to help Mr. Kato show the financial institution that there are friends in the CNMI that are behind him to help him with his present financial problem," Tudela added.

Secretaries and department heads are encouraged to buy tickets and students who have participated in Wakai Nekko No Kai's previous visits are asked to get involved in the fundraising events.

Entry forms for the Wakai Nekko No Kai Friendship Golf Tournament can be obtained and submitted at the Saipan Mayor's Offce in Afetna Square, San Antonio. Those interested can also call Tony Benavente at 234-6408 or fax entry forms at 234-1190.

The MVA contact is Martin Duebas and his phone number is 664-3200. His fax number is 664-3237. Checks should be made payable to the MVA (Memo: WNNK).

SML to finalize 2008 season on Thursday

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Saipan Major League will finalize all the details of the upcoming 3rd Annual Budweiser SML in a meeting on Thursday, Jan. 17, at 6:30pm at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

SML coordinator Tony Rogolifoi, in an email, said the league opens on Feb. 25, Monday, where a total of nine teams might join the competition, stretching the season to five months.

As of press time, seven teams have signified their intention to join with two more in the process of finalizing their respective lineups. Representatives of the two other teams are required to attend Thursday's meeting.

The confirmed teams are the defending champion Tanapag Falcons, runner-up Bob O'Connor Masters, the PTI Kings (formerly known as the Bud Kings), 2005 titlist Ford Rangers, D9ers, Jaguars, and a new Korean team—composed mostly of Koreans living on Saipan.

Representatives of each team are required to submit their 25-player roster and $800 entrance fee in the meeting.

The opening game of the 3rd Annual Budweiser SML will feature a rematch of last year's finals when the Falcons face off with the Masters in the scheduled 6:30pm contest.

The schedule of the whole season will be released as soon as organizers get the total number of competing teams.

The Tanapag Falcons are expected to field the same championship-winning team next season.

Last season, the third seeded Falcons completed their own happily-ever-after ending by sweeping the fourth-ranked Masters in their best-of-five title series.

The Falcons rallied back from a 9-2 deficit to squeeze out a 10-9 win in Game 3 over the Masters to complete a three-game sweep.

The Falcons drew first blood in their title series against the Masters when they squeezed out an 11-inning 16-15 win.

Game 2 was a different story as the Falcons' relied on a Mike Pangelinan double in the top of the ninth and their pitchers in the bottom half of the inning to score a 12-10 come-from-behind win.

Other competing teams last season were the 2006 champion Bud Kings, the Ford Rangers, the Korean Jaguars, and the Young Guns.

For more information, call Rogolifoi at 288-3515 or email him at tonyrogolifoi@yahoo.com.

Villanueva victorious once again at USSP

Rolly Villanueva returned to form and snagged both USS Peleliu Club pool championships last week.

In Wednesday's 8-ball tournament Villanueva went undefeated, topping Erwin Gomez, Franz De Luna, and Ed Manucdoc to head the winners' bracket.

De Luna had beaten Boyet Sequioco, while Manucdoc sent Taylor Watanabe and Nolan Cultura to the losers' bracket. Cultura won over R.E. Rengiil.

Watanabe eliminated Rengiil, and Cultura did the same to Watanabe.

Gomez came back through the losers' bracket by overcoming Sequioco, De Luna, Cultura, and Manucdoc but lost his rematch with Villanueva for the championship.

Villanueva took home $48, while Gomez got $32 for second place.

Villanueva split his games with Annie Tesiro and Rose Phillips for his only losses on his way to his Tuesday 9-ball victory.

There was some confusion about the day, so the Monday competition was held the following day. It will be on Monday starting this week.

Villanueva headed the round robin tournament with 10 wins, followed by Billy Lam with seven.

Annie Tesiro and Ron Chisato were another game back, followed by John Mongami, Rose Phillips, and Watanabe.

Both tournaments start at 8pm. For more information about the Monday 9-ball round robin or the Wednesday 8-ball double elimination, please contact Rose or Ken Phillips at 233-1984. ***(USSP)***

MARK RABAGO
Rolly Villanueva, seen here in a file photo, won both 8- and 9-ball competitions at USS Peleliu Club last week.

RGA January Ace this Sunday

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The Refaluwasch Golf Association will hold its January Ace of the Month Tournament this coming Sunday, Jan. 20, at the Marianas Country Club.

The kick off of RGA's 2008 season will have a check-in time is 11am with tee time set an hour later at 12pm.

Last week, RGA president "emeritus" and current tournament director Jess Wabol said that the club has decided to halve its membership dues for 2008 from the long-standing fee of $50 to only $25.

Wabol said this happened after RGA recognized the hard economic times and decided to give its members and future members a break by slashing the cost of becoming part of RGA.

He said he hopes by making membership in RGA a little lighter in the pocket, more weekend warriors will now return to the golf links and renew their membership or apply as new members of the golf club.

Wabol added that RGA is also instituting a new promotion this year wherein members who take part in at least 10 rounds by the time the annual RGA Turkey Shoot in November comes around, will get free entry into the tournament.

For more information about RGA's upcoming January Ace of the Month Tournament, new membership policies, and other competitions held by the club, contact RGA president Adam Hardwicke at 483-2926 or Wabol at 233-3673.

Wakai Nekko No Kai golf benefit on Jan. 23

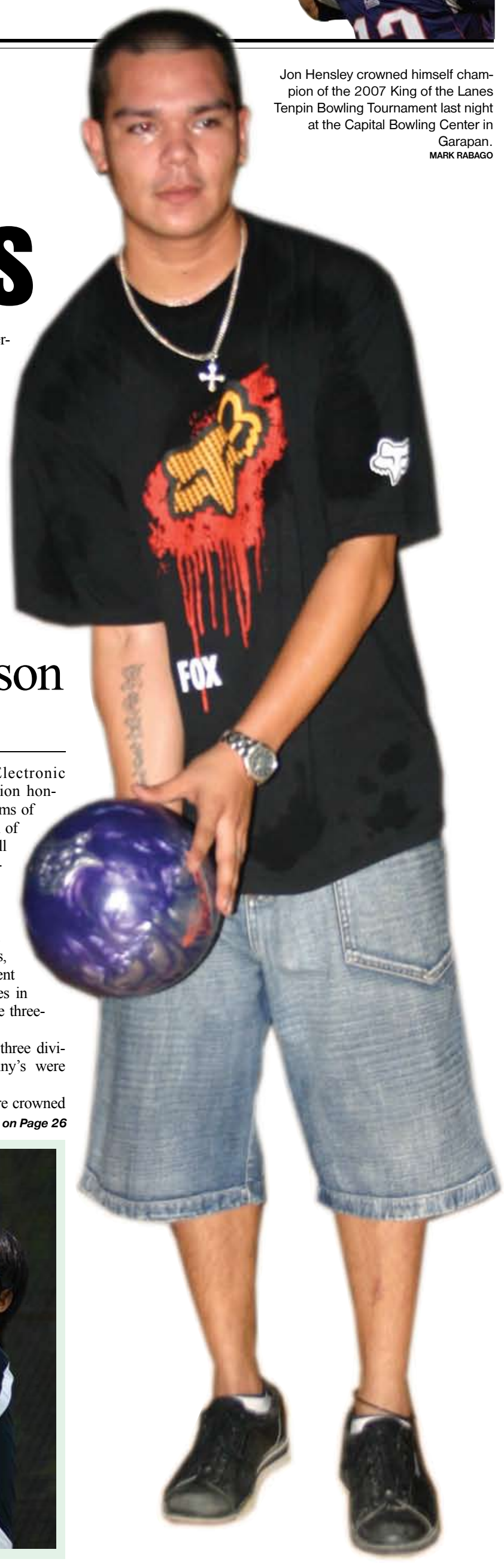
The Marianas Visitors Authority along with the Saipan Mayor's Office, and the Northern Marianas College is organizing the Wakai Nekko No Kai Friendship Golf Tournament on Jan. 23 at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort. 27

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Perfect Pats march on to AFC title game

Tom Brady was almost perfect. The Patriots still are. Their poised and prolific quarterback knocked another mark out of the books. 24

Hensley is 2007 King of the Lanes



Jon Hensley crowned himself champion of the 2007 King of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament last night at the Capital Bowling Center in Garapan.
MARK RABAGO

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Nearly four years after rolling a perfect game, Jon Hensley is again on bowling Cloud 9 after winning the season-ending 2007 King of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament last night at the Capital Bowling Center in Garapan.

The 22-year-old former youth national bowler outplayed veteran kegler Ador Dimaano in the championship game, 212-159. Amazingly, the stepladder finals pitted two lower-seeded players against one another.

Hensley and Dimaano beat long odds to advance to the stepladder finals as both players finished outside the Top 12 in the Bowling Ranking System compiled by the Saipan Bowling Association.

Two men barely made it to Top 6 with Hensley at No. 5 with 1,782 pinfalls and Dimaano in sixth place with a total of 1,749.

Also advancing to the stepladder finals were BRS mainstays Raymond Zapanta (1,860 pinfalls), Dannie Robles (1,845), Kitz Barja (1,830), and defending champion Raymond Angeles (1,815).

It didn't take that long, however, for the upsets to come as one by one the top seeds bowed out against their less-heralded opponents.

First to fall was Barja after the Micronesian Brokers, Inc. general manager was nipped by Dimaano in the quarterfinals, 199-198.

Hensley was also successful in his David-versus-Goliath match-up against Angeles as he convincingly defeated the veteran of last year's 21st Asian Intercity Bowling Championship in Jakarta, Indonesia, 122-191.

The two's advance didn't stop there as the upset trend contin-

See HENSLEY on Page 26

SEDA honors top winners of 2007 season

JON PEREZ
Members of the Oleai Black Stallions celebrate their Masters division win in yesterday's award ceremony of the 2007 Summer/Fall season of the Budweiser Darts League at Pacific Islands Club's Charley's Cabaret.

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Saipan Electronic Darts Association honored the top teams of the 2007 season of the Summer/Fall Budweiser Darts League yesterday in a simple award ceremony at the Pacific Islands Club's Charley's Cabaret.

Leading the list of winners were sponsor bars Oleai, Porky's, and Jonny's as their teams went home with a total of 16 trophies in the six divisions contested in the three-month darts league.

Oleai and Porky's each won three division championships while Jonny's were champions in one division.

The Oleai Black Stallions were crowned

See SEDA on Page 26

Bud Cup playoffs begin today

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The playoff round of the 2007 BANMI Budweiser Cup Men's Islandwide Basketball League starts today with eight teams on a quest for the two finals slots at stake.

The top-ranked Ol'Aces, which won the pennant after an 11-1 season, open up the games when they clash with the eighth seeded D-1 Ulloa's at 7pm today at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The other competing teams in the playoffs are Rock Steady, Saipan Stevedore Suns, Southern Sonics, Junior Nationals, Runnin'

See BUD CUP on Page 26

Heo marches through semis

JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Ji Hoon Heo will try to continue his giant killing ways in the boys' 16-and-under division of the 2008 CountryLink Victorian Junior Classic when he faces No. 2 Rory de Boer of Tasmania in today's semifinals at the Wodon-

See HEO on Page 26

JON PEREZ
Ji Hoon Heo prepares to serve in this file photo taken in one of his games in the DFS Micronesian Cup last year at the Pacific Islands Club tennis courts.